

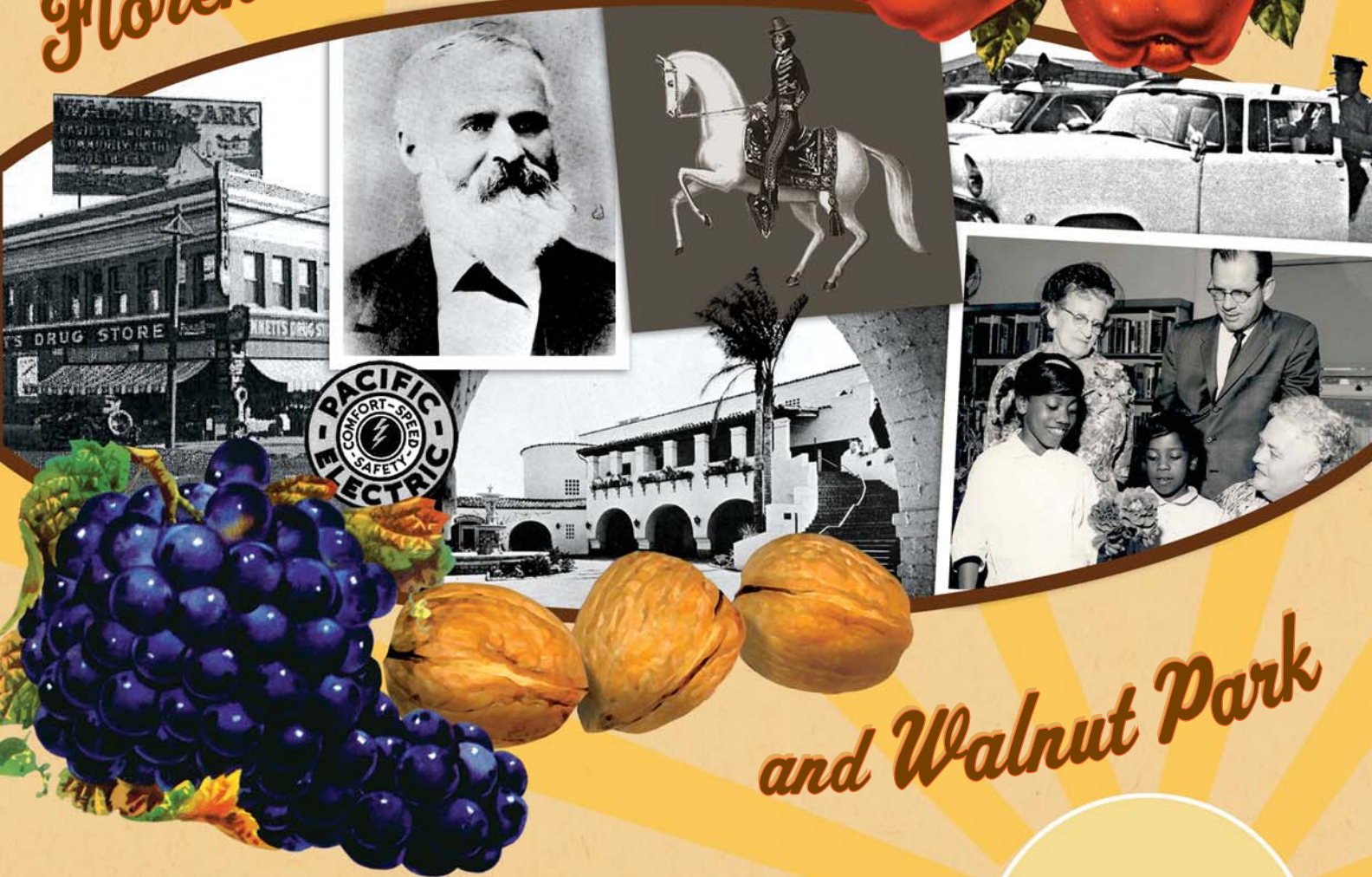
Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park CONNECTION



County of
Los Angeles

Community Resource Guide 2007

Florence-Firestone



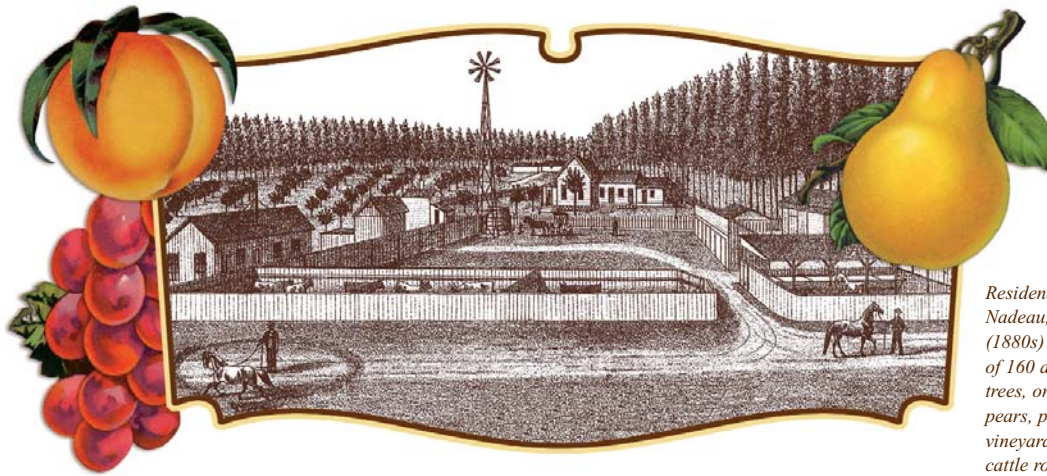
and Walnut Park

Your **COMMUNITY HISTORY** PAGE 50

**En
Español**

PAGINA 51

Enriching Lives



Residence of Remi and Martha Nadeau, Florence, California (1880s) The property consists of 160 acres of Eucalyptus trees, orchards of apples, pears, peaches and a small vineyard. Jersey and Durham cattle roam the property.

Dear Community Member,

The County of Los Angeles is pleased to offer you the fourth annual publication of the Connection – a resource and activity guide prepared especially for the members of the *Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park* communities. **This edition will be published and distributed to residents of Walnut Park for the first time.**

You live in a community with a wealth of activities, resources and history. Through the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park Connection you will find valuable information on County services, as well as community updates.

Do you know about your community history? A historical overview and recollections from local residents of the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park communities is included on page 50. If you are a long time resident, we welcome your written recollections of Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park. Any information received will be donated to Graham and Florence Libraries for future generations to enjoy.

We welcome your feedback. Please feel free to contact us by mail, or via E-mail. The Connection will also be available on the web at <http://cao.lacounty.gov/OUAS/goal6.htm#CommConn>. We hope that this Connection encourages you to stay in touch with your community.

Thank you.

If you have any comments or suggestions on your Florence-Firestone/Walnut Park Connection, please write to:

County of Los Angeles - Chief Administrative Office

Office of Unincorporated Area Services and Special Projects (OUAS&SP)

723 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration • 500 West Temple Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

Or E-mail your comments to: uas@cao.lacounty.gov



Visit the County of Los Angeles Website
www.lacounty.info

Call the County's Public Information Office
(213) 974-1311

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Your Community History

County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan

At-A-Glance Directory of Services Brochure

Emergency Preparedness Information



Living in Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park cities?

Your communities are not cities, but are unincorporated communities. This means that Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park are not part of the City of Los Angeles, the City of Huntington Park or the City of South Gate. Instead, your communities are among the many unincorporated areas. The County of Los Angeles is responsible for providing all municipal (local) services such as law enforcement, fire suppression, libraries, animal control, road maintenance, parks and recreation, planning, code enforcement and street lighting.

Who governs Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park?

The unincorporated areas are governed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, who serve as your “City Council”. The Board of Supervisors are responsible for making policy that affects you and all other Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park residents. This five-member board serves as your “City Council”, with each member representing one of the five Supervisorial Districts. If you have questions or concerns regarding municipal services in your community, please contact your respective District office.

The County is here to serve you

Whether you live in the First or Second District, you will find that the County is here to serve you. The information provided in this guide will help you access the County services you need. However, if you ever feel that a County department has not been responsive to your request for service, please contact the First or Second District Field Offices. Both offices have knowledgeable staff that can help you obtain information about County departments and services that will respond to your request.

FIRST DISTRICT

East Los Angeles
Field Office
4801 E. Third Street
Los Angeles, CA 90022
(323) 881-4601

SECOND DISTRICT

Florence-Firestone
Field Office
7807 S. Compton Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90001
(323) 586-6523

What Supervisorial District do I live in?

Depending on where you live, some areas are part of the First District while others are part of the Second District. The map of your communities on the back of this guide displays the boundaries between the First and Second Districts. As a resident of Florence-Firestone community, you are served by either the First District or Second District. Those of you who reside in Walnut Park are served by the First District. You can also find the District in which you reside by:

- Visiting the County’s Website at www.lacounty.info and click on the “Find Your Districts” link
- Call the County’s Public Information Office at (213) 974-1311
- Call the County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk at (562) 466-1310

Both of these Districts have a field office staffed by Board Deputies that represent your local interests.

What is the County doing to improve services and the quality of life in your community?

County departments are dedicated to provide quality ongoing service to your community. Additionally, the County has formed the Florence-Firestone Community Enhancement Team (FFCET), which includes various County departments to improve the delivery of services through better department collaboration and cooperation. Some recent community improvements are:

- Adding Deputy Sheriffs to address safety and quality of life issues.
- Increased funding for graffiti removal services.
- Clean-up of railroad right-of-ways.
- Enhancing Nuisance Abatement Teams to deal with problem residential and commercial properties.
- Encouraging commercial development in the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park Business Districts.

What can I do to improve County services?

You are the eyes and ears that can help County government improve the quality of life in your community. One of the most effective ways to do so is by joining a neighborhood improvement group such as an existing Neighborhood Watch, or start your own neighborhood meeting. Learn how to access local services, and work in partnership with County government. For more information, contact your respective Supervisorial District Office.

Here are a few tips on how you can improve County services in Florence-Firestone:

- Use the Connection as a guide to request services, report problems, and become informed about County services.
- Share your knowledge of County services with your neighbors and friends.
- Maintain a log of the date, department and contact person who handled your request and report back to departments on whether the services you requested were delivered. Did the quality of services delivered meet your needs?
- Attend a FFCET meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. The meetings are held at the Florence-Firestone Service Center.
- Attend a Walnut Park Residents Association meeting held every 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Walnut Park Elementary School.

Florence-Firestone Community Leaders Coalition

As part of the efforts of the FFCET, a Community Leaders Coalition was developed that includes representatives of local churches, schools, parks and civic groups. For the past two years, members of the coalition have organized community events such as neighborhood clean-ups, training and information sessions, public safety meetings,

and planning sessions with key Los Angeles County officials. Their mission is to find innovative ways to improve the quality of life in Florence-Firestone.

This year, the leaders participated in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Citizen Academy, which resulted in 60 graduates of the ten-week community safety course. These same leaders were instrumental in the success of the first National Night Out event at the Firestone Activity Center. The Coalition, with the guidance of the Community Development Commission (CDC), is interested in identifying new ways to connect with local residents. If you are interested in learning more about this coalition please contact CDC at **(323) 890-7178**.

Community Leaders Coalition participants represent the following organizations:

Church of the Living Gospel
St. Malachy Catholic Church
St. Lawrence Catholic Church
St. Aloysius Catholic Church
Presentation of Mary Catholic Church
Great Hope Fellowship
Edison Middle School
Drew Middle School
Ted Watkins Park
Florence-Firestone Neighborhood Association
Florence-Firestone Chamber of Commerce
Antwerp Block Club
Neighborhood Block Clubs
Lillian Elementary School
Russell Elementary School
Graham Elementary School
Parmelee Elementary School
Florence Library
Washington Park
Roosevelt Park
Bethune Park
MASH (More Advocates for Safe Homes)

Community Directory and Emergency Preparedness

At the back of this issue you will find a directory of services with telephone numbers to various County Departments. Please tear out the directory for easy access to the resources you need. Also included is a pull out Emergency Preparedness Checklist to assist you in the event of a disaster.

Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park Community Updates and Improvement Projects

Grand Opening of the Leon H. Washington Park Gymnasium and Community Center



On June 29, 2006, the local community celebrated the grand opening of the Colonel Leon H. Washington Park Gymnasium and Community Center.

The new state-of-the-art facility includes a computer room equipped with 13 new computers, a gymnasium, and a kitchen. The Park is named after Colonel Leon H. Washington, a leader and independent thinker who founded the newspaper, *The Eastside Shopper*, which is now known as *The Sentinel*, and is one of the most respected newspapers in California. The community room is dedicated to community leader Monte McGowan, who was instrumental in seeking the funding for this project.

Joining the festivities at the grand opening were the Sacramento Kings' Jason Hart and former Los Angeles Clipper, Olden Polynice, who signed autographs and gave basketball tips to the children on dribbling and shooting. The opening of Washington Park's Gymnasium and Community Center is a great resource for the community, offering programs such as aerobics, basketball leagues, nutrition and computer classes.

The Leon H. Washington Park is located at 8908 Maie Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90002. If you would like additional information about programs and activities, please call (323) 586-7205.



Public Safety, a Priority!

In the past year, the Sheriff's Department, working with the Board of Supervisors, added six additional Sheriff's Deputies to patrol the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park communities when calls for service are in high demand. The result has been a substantial drop in crime with the homicide rate dropping by 58 percent and assaults dropping 38 percent since the beginning of last year. Additional COPS Deputies (Community Oriented Policing Services) are actively pursuing the distribution of illegal narcotics, gang activity, illegal vendors, and prostitution. They also participate in neighborhood clean-up projects and attend Neighborhood Watch Meetings and community events. The COPS Team can adjust their hours to meet the needs of the community. Also, this year more resources have been provided through the Office of the District Attorney for investigation and prosecution of criminal activities. Through a community partnership, public safety will continue to improve in the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park communities. For more information, contact your Service Area Lieutenant John Babbitt at (323) 586-7250.

National Night Out a Huge Success



On August 1, 2006, over 400 residents from the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park communities attended the first National Night Out event hosted at the Firestone Activity

Center. National Night Out is an annual event held in communities across the nation to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for local anti-crime programs; and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

The event was also attended by Sheriff's Deputies, community leaders and other members of the County family. Activities included a cultural dance demonstration, children's games, information booths, and free food. This successful event offered a safe place to meet neighbors and connect with those who provide services to the community.

Parkway Tree Trimming Program

One of the services that the County provides is parkway tree trimming, to enhance the appearance of the community, and to minimize the possibility of trees or branches falling. Trees are also trimmed to avoid interference with street signs, lights, and to prevent roadway obstructions.

The County maintains over 4,930 trees in the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park communities. Trees on personal property are the responsibility of the homeowner. The trees are trimmed in three cycles, and are divided by category, and geographical location. The Department of Public Works, Road Maintenance Division, has divided the community into three areas for tree trimming: Firestone Area (A), Florence Area (B), and Walnut Park Area (C).

Tree categories include:

- **Fast Growing Trees** - Trimmed every two years, such as: Ficus, Carrotwood, and Sweetgum.
- **Slow Growing Trees** - Trimmed every five years, such as: Southern Magnolias, and Yew Pines.
- **Palm Trees** - Trimmed every two years

For any further information on scheduling or coverage area, please contact Jason Simmons, Road Maintenance District 4 office at (562) 869-1176, extension 241.

Attention Dog Owners!

Mandatory Spay/Neuter and Microchipping for Dogs

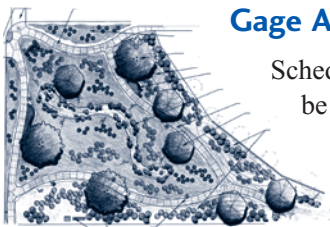
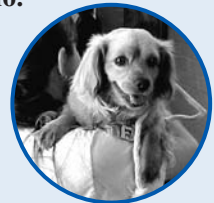


To improve public safety and reduce the number of stray dogs in your community and at the Animal Care & Control shelters, a new ordinance became effective **June 1, 2006**. It requires that all residents of unincorporated areas have their dogs spayed or neutered and have an identification microchip implanted.

If your dog has already been spayed or neutered and has an identification microchip implanted, you must submit the dog's microchip number and the spay/neuter certificate to the Department of Animal Care and Control to be in compliance with the ordinance.

Hurry...It is not too late to avoid penalties and fines if you begin the compliance process immediately. Animal Care and Control staff is available Monday-Thursday to answer your questions and assist you with low-cost spay/neuter referrals, senior citizens discounts, **free microchips** and compliance "exemptions". To receive more information, please call the Department of Animal Care and Control at (562) 256-7104 or visit **<http://animalcontrol.lacounty.info>**.

Through this Web site, you will also be able to send an email to the Department to request additional information.



Gage Avenue Neighborhood Park

Scheduled to begin construction in 2008, the 1.2 acre Gage Avenue Neighborhood Park will be located at the northeast corner of Gage and Converse Avenues. This empty lot will be landscaped with large shade trees and will include lighted walking paths and a rest area. The total cost of the proposed project, which is currently under design, is estimated at \$2 million.

The project construction will be overseen by the Department of Public Works and will be financed by the State of California under the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002. Once built, the park will be maintained by the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Combating Illegal Dumping along Railroad Right-of-Ways

The Department of Public Works (DPW) receives frequent complaints about illegal dumping, particularly in front of Lillian Elementary School, located on Randolph Street in the unincorporated Florence-Firestone area. There have been illegal dumping activities along the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right-of-way and other areas for many years.



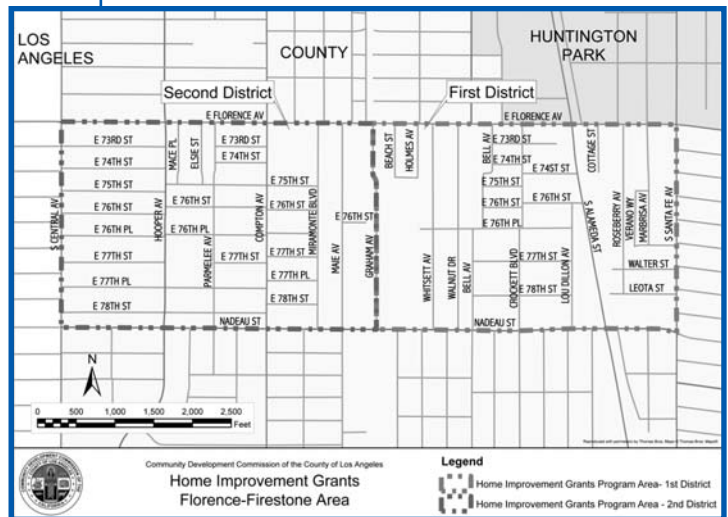
The District Attorney obtained a right-of-entry permit for DPW and the Sheriff's Department from UPRR. The permit allowed DPW to install "No Trespassing-No Parking-No Dumping" signs. Also, the Sheriff's Department now has access to remove all abandoned vehicles and the UPRR has removed the accumulated trash along their right-of-way.

In order to provide a long-term solution to the dumping problem, a permanent six-foot-high steel fence will be constructed by DPW along the edge of the public road right-of-way that adjoins the UPRR right-of-way. The fencing will prevent illegal dumping of trash, abandoned vehicles, and homeless encampments in these areas. Funding for this project was provided by the Board of Supervisors and a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The construction of the fence will be completed in Spring 2008.

Free! Home Improvement Grants Available Now



If you live in the project area (see map), and meet the eligibility requirements, you are encouraged to look into the Home Improvement Grant program. Based on family size and income you may be eligible. Up to \$10,000 in grant assistance is available for qualified property owners. This program is designed to assist with eliminating code violations, or needed repairs such as exterior and façade improvements, plumbing, electrical, heating, painting, window replacement, landscaping and fencing. For more information, please contact Estella Cruz of CDC at **(323) 890-7027**.



Project area boundaries: south of Florence Avenue, north of Nadeau Street, east of Central Avenue, west of Santa Fe Avenue

Street Lights Coming Soon To Hooper Street

As part of a continuing effort to illuminate neighborhood streets and thoroughfares, the Department of Public Works (DPW) will be installing 32 additional street lights on Hooper Avenue, between Slauson Avenue and 94th Street. After conducting an evaluation of the existing street lights in this area, it was determined that an upgrade was needed. The project will be completed by July 2007. If you have questions regarding street lights in your neighborhood, please contact DPW at **(626) 300-4726**.



Nuisance Abatement Teams in Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park

To improve your quality of life in Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park, the County has stepped up its code enforcement efforts creating Nuisance Abatement Teams (NATs) throughout the unincorporated areas of the County. Additional resources were recently dedicated to this multi-agency task force made up of County agencies such as the Department of Public Works, Regional Planning, Fire, Environmental Health, Sheriff's COPS Teams and District Attorney Investigators. Other County agencies are contacted as needed such as: Animal Care and Control, Children and Family Services, and the Treasurer and Tax Collector's Business License Division.

The NATs are used when there is evidence that there may be multiple, serious code violations occurring on a property. The Team will visit a location together to inspect public nuisance conditions at commercial and residential properties and will conduct follow-up inspections to assure compliance. The goal of this program is to improve the living conditions for residents of unincorporated areas. If you would like to report a property or business to the NAT, **you may write, e-mail or fax:**

For locations in the First District

Coordinator: Robert Tabares

East Los Angeles Building and Safety

4801 E. Third Street

Los Angeles, CA 90022

(323) 881-7010 / rtabares@lapdw.org

For locations in the Second District

Coordinator: Gail Turner-Brown

Florence-Firestone Building and Safety

7807 S. Compton Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90001

(323) 586-6541 / gturner@lapdw.org

Your complaint will be kept confidential. If your complaint does not warrant a visit by the NAT, it will be referred to the appropriate agency and you will be notified accordingly.



Abandoned dwelling



After NAT Team issues notices to the owner to improve the property

Health and Safety Concerns in Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park



Health concerns are important to residents of the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park communities. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), working with community leaders in the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park communities, determined the most urgent health concerns. Two workgroups were established to address these concerns: Nutrition/Obesity and Emergency Preparedness.

For more information on Nutrition/Obesity and/or Emergency Preparedness programs in Florence-Firestone/Walnut Park, contact DPH at **(323) 563-4447**.

(continued on page 8)

Nutrition/Obesity Program

Community leaders will be trained to give presentations on nutrition and obesity topics at churches, schools, community groups and other locations. A Nutrition/Obesity workgroup, comprised of the community leaders and DPH staff, met during May and June of 2006 and developed the following curriculum on the following topics:

- Eating and cooking healthier, reading food labels and making smart food choices
- Physical activity in maintaining optimal health



Emergency Preparedness Program

Residents are encouraged to participate in upcoming programs to become better prepared in the event of a major disaster, such as an earthquake. In the event of a major disaster emergency responders and public utility companies will be assessing the most critical situations and may not be able to respond to every call for service right away. Therefore, it is important for you to be prepared. (please see Emergency Preparedness Guide insert).

Local residents attended the first Emergency Preparedness workshop, which took place on May 17, 2006 at the Florence-Firestone Community Services Center. The community identified the following initial projects:

- **Disaster Preparedness Workshop:** A one hour workshop will teach participants basic disaster preparedness, including how to assemble a disaster kit.
- **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.** A 20-hour certified training course will be provided by the Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles County Fire personnel in disaster preparedness. Through training, you may be able to extinguish small fires, provide basic medical aid, search for and rescue victims safely, and organize neighborhood volunteers to be effective in survival skills until public safety resources are available.

La Alameda Shopping Center Groundbreaking in Walnut Park



La Alameda site area prior to industrial area demolition

On August 2, 2006 a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the La Alameda Shopping Center project at the southeast corner of Florence Avenue and Alameda Street in Walnut Park. The 18-acre, 240,000 square foot

commercial center will provide needed goods and services to your communities. The \$60 million project

will also revitalize the local community by eliminating blight and creating an estimated 750 permanent, full-time jobs.

A large number of national retail tenants will occupy space in the new development such as Office Depot, Ross Dress for Less, and Payless Shoes. Stores are expected to open in Winter 2007. The Community Development Commission (CDC) worked closely with the developer and the County of Los Angeles to make this "power center" the very first project under the Los Angeles County Economic Development Business Incentive Program. For more information, call the CDC's Economic Redevelopment Division at (323) 890-7204.



La Alameda project site rendering

Business Improvements Coming to the Florence-Firestone Business District



Last year the Board of Supervisors achieved a major milestone by approving the first Business Improvement District (BID) in an unincorporated County area. Business property owners in Florence-Firestone identified boundaries and agreed to an annual assessment to pay for property related improvements and projects to enhance the District's appearance, promote businesses, and provide additional public services. The assessment will result in approximately \$98,000 annually for the next five years. The BID will run along Florence Avenue from Central Avenue on the west to the Metro Blue Line tracks on the east, and on Compton Avenue from East 75th Street to just north of Florence Avenue.

The BID will be administered by the Florence Avenue Property Owners Association. The first assessment fund, will go towards the installation of holiday banners, a new internet site and private security patrol. Please visit the new internet site at www.florenceavenue.com. For more information, call the Community Development Commission's Economic Redevelopment Division at (323) 890-7204.



Spreading Environmental Awareness at the 2nd Annual Florence Firestone Community Carnival

Environmental awareness was a major theme at the 2nd Annual Florence-Firestone Community Carnival held on June 3rd and 4th, 2006. The carnival was hosted by the Florence-Firestone Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by members of the Board of Supervisors.

County Public Works staff shared many simple tips about preserving the environment.

Local residents, businesses, school representatives and other participants learned about the County's free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events; free recycling consultation services through the Smart Business Recycling program; free disposal of old tires at Waste Tire Collection events; graffiti abatement programs; and creating their own fertilizer by Smart Gardening. Approximately 250 used oil containers were distributed to residents and businesses. Other participants included the Community Development Commission, and the Community Leaders Coalition, who helped distribute various informational brochures and promotional items. For more information on how you can do your part to preserve our valuable environmental resources, call 1-800 CleanLA.



General Plan Update

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning is updating the County's General Plan. The General Plan lays out goals and policies that guide the future development of unincorporated communities throughout the County. The updated General Plan will address land use, circulation, housing, conservation and open space, noise, and safety issues, to improve communities through efficient land uses and sustainable development. Updating the General Plan provides residents with opportunities to participate in the planning and decision-making processes that shape their communities.

The Department released the Draft General Plan in 2004 followed by twenty one community workshops. The Preliminary General Plan will be released in Spring of 2007 which will be followed by the public outreach campaign. The Department is expecting the Board of Supervisors adoption of the updated General Plan in mid-2008. For further information on the General Plan Update, please visit the Department website at <http://planning.lacounty.gov> or call the General Plan Section at (213) 974-6417.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



Century Station

11713 Alameda Street
Lynwood, CA 90262
(323) 568-4800

Firestone Activity Center

7901 Compton Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90601
(323) 586-7250

History of Your Local Sheriffs' Department

Law enforcement services for the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park areas were originally handled by the Sheriff's Department Headquarters located in downtown Los Angeles. The first Sheriff's Florence Station opened in 1924 on the 600 block of Florence Avenue near Maie Avenue in a leased storefront. Staffing consisted of 25 deputies. In the mid-1930s a larger leased

facility was opened on the corner of Firestone Boulevard and Juniper Street. In 1955 the Firestone Park Station was dedicated with a large community event that included a parade. The station remained in operation for the next 38 years until 1994 when the Sheriff's Century Regional Station was constructed. The Firestone Station facility is now used as the Firestone Activity Center.



1924: First substation of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Located on 1600 block of Florence Avenue



1936: Firestone Sheriff's Station located on Firestone Boulevard at Juniper Street



1957 Ford Sheriff's Patrol car leaving Firestone Station on Compton Blvd and Nadeau Street

WHEN YOU NEED LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE...



The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is the primary law enforcement agency in your Florence-Firestone/ Walnut Park Community. The Deputy Sheriffs are from the Century Station which is commanded by Captain Steven Roller. These Deputy Sheriff's strive to solve community problems and concerns by developing partnerships with community members and other government agencies and taking an aggressive approach to crime fighting.

Additionally, Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) Deputies are assigned to your community to concentrate on quality of life issues. Unlike regular patrol deputies, who handle routine calls of service, and crimes in progress, COPS Deputies work flexible hours, and can concentrate on addressing issues that are important to the community such as narcotic and gang activity, illegal vendors, and neighborhood clean-up projects.

Please contact the Century Sheriff's Station if you have any law enforcement related questions, want to report a crime, report suspicious or illegal activities, or for any non-emergency request for service. For emergency services, dial 9-1-1. The following services are also provided by Century Station:

Service Area Lieutenant and Suppression Team

Lieutenant John Babbitt is the Service Area Lieutenant assigned to the Florence-Firestone/Walnut Park community. Lt. Babbitt serves as the law enforcement manager for the area and maintains direct and daily contact with the community to address public safety issues in the community. He can be reached by calling the Firestone Activity Center at **(323) 586-7250**.

Firestone Activity Center

This facility serves as your local gathering spot for youth, and the community as a whole. Although the focus is on youth and community activities, meetings are also hosted at this facility, the former Firestone Sheriff's Station. Ongoing activities include football, cheerleading, karate, boxing, ballet folklorico, soap box derby racing, art classes, educational field trips and tutoring. For a schedule of activities, please contact the Firestone Activity Center office at **(323) 586-7250**.

Community Academy

The Century Sheriff's Station hosts a Community Academy at various times throughout the year for those of you interested in knowing more about the world's largest Sheriff's Department. In July 2006, over 60 local residents graduated from the first Community Academy held at the Firestone Activity Center facility. Qualified participants attended classes one day a week for two hours per session. After completion of the 12 week course, graduates were presented with Community Academy Graduation Certificates. Classes covered patrol, jail and courtroom operations as well as homicide investigations,

SWAT teams, K-9, rescue operations and more. Please contact Deputy Norma Maciel at **(323) 586-7250** if you are interested in joining the next Community Academy.

Civilian Volunteer Program

Join the Civilian Volunteer Program and assist the Sheriff's Department in a variety of non-hazardous duties such as administrative tasks, crowd/traffic assistance, and search missions. The minimum age requirement is 18 years old. Contact the Firestone Activity Center if you would like to join the Volunteer Program.

Community Advisory Committee

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meets every third Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at the Century Sheriff's Station. Residents, local business owners, clergy, and students address and work toward solving community issues, and participate in planning various crime prevention events in the area. If you would like to participate, please contact Deputy Norma Maciel at **(323) 586-7250**.

Explorer Program

The Explorer Program is interested in youth between the ages of 14 to 21 years old, who want to assist deputies by performing non-hazardous duties such as report writing and fingerprinting. Explorers also assist with public events, crowd/traffic control at parades, conferences and civic events. If you are interested in the Explorer Program, contact the Firestone Activity Center at **(323) 586-7250**.



Lt. John Babbitt addresses community participants at the 1st Annual National Night Out event at the Firestone Activity Center.

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire Station 16

8010 Compton Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90001
(323) 585-5002

Fire Station 164

6301 S. Santa Fe Avenue
Huntington Park, CA 90255
(323) 589-1350

For fire safety information please log on to the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Web site at fire.lacounty.gov
In case of an emergency dial 9-1-1.

Local Fire Department History

Prior to 1920, the area was served by the Graham Fire Department which evolved into a County fire district created and referred to as Miramonte-Florence-Graham with two Engines: 9 and 16. Walnut Park was served through a separate fire district by Fire Station 24. Many of the early fire stations that served Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park are still standing; however, the buildings are used for other purposes.



Fire Station 16: Built in 1929 located at 8414 Cedar Street (now Holmes Avenue)

The Walnut Park District was formed on December 23, 1924 and the first "pumper" was put into service at Fire Station 24 located at 2705 E. Hill Street (no longer in service). In 1932, a new Walnut Park Fire Station was

Seville Avenue. This building still stands and serves as a dental office. Two stations served the Miramonte-Florence-Graham community. Fire Station 9 (no longer in service), was a two story brick station occupied in 1928 at 7313 S. Compton Avenue. Old Fire Station 16 was built in 1929 on Cedar Avenue (now Holmes Avenue) in Florence-Firestone (formally known as the Graham neighborhood). It was a small brick dwelling, with a fireplace, situated within a residential area, and is now serving as a residence.



1924: Fire Station 16 located at 8500 Graham Avenue.

Present Day Service to the Community

The Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park area is served by the Los Angeles County Fire Department through two local stations; Fire Stations 16 and 164. In addition to responding to fires and other emergencies, both fire stations provide a temporary haven for any person who encounters a threatening situation and needs a safe place to go. For more information on these fire stations contact (323) 881-2411. For emergencies call 9-1-1.



Firefighters from Station 16 hand out plastic helmets at community event.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Many fires are started by candles left unattended in the home. The Los Angeles County Fire Department recommends you use candles with care, keep any flame away from items that can catch fire, and **REMEMBER...WHEN YOU GO OUT, BLOW OUT!**



SAFE SURRENDER PROGRAM

If you know of someone who may be at-risk of abandoning a baby, the Board of Supervisors approved a plan that allows new mothers to safely surrender an unwanted newborn at any Los Angeles County fire station or hospital emergency room with no questions asked. New mothers may call the Safe Surrender Hotline for information, counseling and referrals at **(877) BABYSAFE (222-9723)**. This 24-hour, 7 days a week hotline is staffed by professionals who speak more than 160 languages. You may also visit the Web site at **www.babysafela.org** for more information.



FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPLORER PROGRAM

The County of Los Angeles Explorer Program is designed for young adults from 15 to 21 years of age, interested in learning about a career in the fire service. Explorers are trained by professional firefighters on fire-fighting techniques and proper use of equipment. For more information, contact Firefighter Eric Suarez at Station 54 at **(323) 567-8580**.



FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Install and maintain smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
- ☐ Hide matches and lighters out of children's sight and reach.
- ☐ Post emergency numbers near each phone.
- ☐ Check electrical cords for fraying, cracks, and exposed wires, and replace them.
- ☐ Do not overload outlets. Use multiple-plug power strips that have built-in circuit breakers and surge protectors.
- ☐ Don't run electrical cords underneath rugs.
- ☐ Install ground-fault circuit interrupters in outlets near sink areas and outdoors.
- ☐ Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- ☐ Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can catch fire.
- ☐ Turn off space heaters and blow out candles when you leave a room or go to bed.
- ☐ Clear all exits of obstructions.
- ☐ Store cleaning products, aerosol cans, and flammable liquids away from sources of heat.
- ☐ Have your furnace filters inspected by a qualified technician every year.
- ☐ Change your furnace filters frequently.
- ☐ Clean the lint screen on your clothes dryer before each use.
- ☐ Clean fireplace, coal stove, and wood stove chimneys before each heating season.
- ☐ Have smokers use non-tipping ashtrays.
- ☐ If you smoke, never do so in bed. Careless smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths in North America.
- ☐ Most important, create and practice a fire escape plan with your family. Know two ways out of every room in your home.

How to Turn Off Your Utilities in the Event of an Emergency



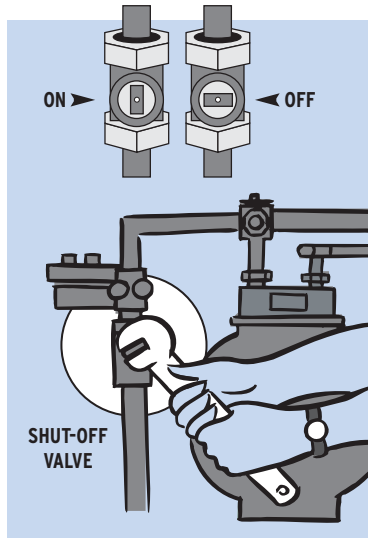
Do you know how to turn off your utilities in the event of an emergency or major disaster?

If you find yourself in an emergency situation - ***Don't Panic!*** It is not always necessary to turn off utilities. The Los Angeles County Fire Department encourages you to follow these simple instructions to shut off your utilities:

GAS

Identify the location of your gas meter beforehand and check all your appliances for shut off valves. The Gas Company adds a distinctive odor to natural gas for easy detection. If you smell gas, or hear the hissing sound of gas escaping, evacuate the area. NEVER light a match, candle, cigarette or turn electrical appliances and lights on or off. After an emergency, only your utility company can turn the gas back on safely. If you cannot reach the Gas Company in an emergency, call the Fire Department by dialing 9-1-1. **To shut off your gas, it is recommended you follow these instructions:**

1. As you face the meter, you will see a pipe running from the ground to the meter. There is a shut-off valve running parallel with the pipe, usually located about 6 to 8 inches above ground.
2. Take a 10" or 12" adjustable wrench and turn the valve 1/2 turn in either direction until the valve is crosswise to the pipe.



Visit the Gas Company website at www.socalgas.com for earthquake safety and other information. If you need service, call the Gas Company at 1 (800) 427-2200.

ELECTRICITY

Identify the location of your electrical switch or fuse panel and learn how to turn the electrical system power off. They are usually located in a metal box on an outside wall near the electric meter. It helps to label each circuit breaker, so you can easily identify the problem. Check your neighborhood to determine if there is a widespread power outage. If your neighbors don't have power, call Southern California Edison (SCE) at 1-(800) 611-1911. If your household is the only one without power, it may be a "tripped" circuit breaker or a blown fuse. Do not use candles for lighting during an outage since candles can become a fire hazard. Use flashlights or battery powered lanterns instead. **To shut off your electricity, it is recommended you follow these instructions:**

1. Turn off the lights and unplug appliances you were using and check the circuit breaker panel to find the tripped switch.
2. To reset a circuit breaker, switch it off and on again. If the switch is a push button, it will pop out. Push it all the way in to reset it.
3. If the breaker trips again when you turn on the lights, it may be overloaded. Disconnect the appliance and plug it into another outlet. If you still do not have electricity after resetting the switch, turn off the main breaker switch and all the breaker switches. Then turn on the main breaker switch and reset each circuit breaker.
4. If you do not feel confident to perform any of these procedures safely, please contact a qualified electrician. To report power outages or lines down, call 1-(800) 611-1911.

Visit SCE's Web site for safety tips at www.sce.com.

WATER

Identify the location of incoming water valves that are connected to your sinks, laundry area and restrooms. In the event of a natural disaster, you may need to shut off the main valve to stop contaminated water from entering your home from a broken water or sewage line that services your area. **To shut off your water, it is recommended you follow these instructions:**

1. Locate your water meter. It is usually located near the street in front of your home.
2. Remove the concrete meter cover.
3. Using the appropriate tool or your hand, turn the valve to the right until it is closed.

For information on how to identify safe drinking water in your home, and proper water storage, please visit the American Red Cross website at www.redcross.org and refer to the “Food and Water in an Emergency” section. It's a good idea to keep an adjustable wrench with your emergency supplies or next to your valve.



For more safety tips, please log onto the Los Angeles County Fire Department Web site at fire.lacounty.gov.

Have you Installed Iron Security Bars or Grilles to your Home or Business?

The Los Angeles County Fire Department recognizes that you may choose to install iron security bars and grilles in your homes and place of business to secure your possessions and to keep family members safe.

The Los Angeles County Uniform Building Code, Section 310.4 allows bars, grilles, grates or similar devices to be installed on an emergency escape, rescue window, HOWEVER:

- Such devices must be equipped with approved release mechanisms to allow opening a security bar or grill from the inside without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort.
- The building must be equipped with smoke detectors installed in accordance with Section 310.9 of the Uniform Building Code.

The Fire Department is concerned with the number of injuries and deaths when family members are trapped in a burning home, unable to escape or be rescued by emergency responders. Such injuries occur due to a lack of proper release mechanisms in older security systems.

It is recommended that if your security system does not meet the above regulations, you upgrade your system to include the required release mechanisms. Your local Fire Department personnel can make recommendations for improvements to your system and answer any questions you may have.



Los Angeles County Police (LACOPS)

To report a crime or suspicious activities in or around Bethune Park, Roosevelt Park, Washington Park, Watkins Park or Walnut Nature Park, or/at any County building, call the Los Angeles County Police at **(800) 834-0064**. This specialized law enforcement agency is responsible for providing protection to the patrons, employees, and properties of the County including more than 126 regional parks, nature centers, lakes, natural areas, golf courses, neighborhood parks, and nature trails, County hospitals, clinics, public health facilities, and department facilities.

To report non-emergencies during business hours, call the LACOPS South Station at **(310) 217-8354**, or contact the Administrative Sergeant at **(310) 217-8394**. For information on career opportunities with the Office of Public Safety please contact: Recruitment Unit, 13001 Dahlia Street, Downey, CA 90242 or call toll free at **(800) 869-4555**.



California Highway Patrol (CHP)

The California Highway Patrol handles traffic related issues in the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park communities such as speeding, cruising, collisions, parked cars blocking driveways, and other traffic violations. The CHP officers who patrol the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park communities are from the South Los Angeles Office.



If you have any questions related to traffic violations, accident reports, or if you need to have your vehicle released from impound please contact the South Los Angeles Office.

CHP South Los Angeles Office

19700 Hamilton Ave. • Torrance 90502
 Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(310) 516-3355
(323) 906-3434 (24-Hour Hotline)
 Call 9-1-1 to report emergencies.

Department of the Ombudsman

510 S. Vermont, Suite 215
 Los Angeles, CA 90020
 General Information: **(213) 738-2003**
 Complaints Only: **(800) 801-0030**
ombudsman.lacounty.info

The Department of the Ombudsman assists individuals who have filed complaints involving the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department or the Office of Public Safety personnel, and are dissatisfied with the results of the investigation. Appointed by the Board of Supervisors, the Ombudsman acts independently from both the Sheriff's Department and the Office of Public Safety. When an individual believes an investigation was incomplete or relevant facts were not considered, the person may contact the Ombudsman by telephone or in writing within 10 business days after receiving notification from the Sheriff's Department or Office of Public Safety. If you do not notify the investigating agency or the Office of Ombudsman within 10 days, the investigation outcome will be deemed final.

Animal Care and Control

Serving the Communities of Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park



Downey Animal Shelter

11258 S. Garfield Avenue

Downey, CA 90242

(562) 940-6898

<http://animalcontrol.co.la.ca.us>

Shelter Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 12:00 noon – 7:00 p.m.

Friday – Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sundays & Holidays: Closed

Emergency Services are available 24 hours a day,
7 days a week

Report Stray Dogs! (562) 940-6898

For the safety of school children and pedestrians, and to help keep dogs from getting hit by vehicles, please report stray dogs. The Department of Animal Care and Control provides services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Services include:

- Patrolling for stray animals
- Animal cruelty investigations
- Investigating complaints about dangerous dogs or excessive barking
- Dead animal pick up
- Pet licenses
- Low cost dog vaccination and licensing clinics
- Pet adoption

Attention Dog Owners!

There is a new ordinance requiring all residents of unincorporated areas to have their dogs spayed or neutered and have a identification microchip implanted. The effort will improve public safety and reduce the number of stray dogs at the County of Los Angeles Animal Care and Control shelters. If you have already complied with this new ordinance, you must submit the dog's microchip number and the spay/neuter certificate to the Department of Animal Care and Control. For more information, please see the related article on page 5.

Lost Pets

Any stray animal found within the unincorporated communities of Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park is brought to the County's shelter in Downey. Be sure to bring identification to prove ownership.

Animal Abandonment

You are subject to a \$1,000 fine or six months in jail for abandoning any animal.

Adopt a Pet

If you are considering bringing a pet into your family, please consider a shelter pet. Adoption fees for first time adoptions are \$32 for cats and \$37 for dogs. Fees include the pets initial vaccinations, spay or neutering, and microchip.

Requirements for your Pet

Every pet owner is required to follow these laws:

- **The Leash Law** - It is not permitted to let your dog run loose day or night, with or without a license.
- **Rabies Vaccination Requirements** – Rabies vaccinations must be kept current for all dogs and cats.
- **Yearly Licensing Requirements** - A license tag must be purchased annually for dogs and cats and secured to their collar.
- **Providing Animals Proper Shelter** – Animals must have access to shelter from rain and sun at all times.
- **Providing Animals Food and Water** – Failing to provide an animal with adequate food or water is punishable by the State Penal Code.
- **Transporting Animals** – it is not permissible to transport any dog in the back or bed of any open truck or other open vehicle while traveling on a County road, street, highway, lane or alley.

Pet owners are encouraged to visit the animal shelter in person to identify lost pets.

The shelter also has many animals available for adoption. Low cost vaccinations and licensing clinics for dogs and cats are also available.





OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

210 West Temple Street, Suite 18000 • Los Angeles, CA 90012 • (213) 974-3512

Victim-Witness Assistance Program

<http://www.lacountyda.org/vwap>

The District Attorney's Victim-Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) is committed to helping victims of crime and vigorously protecting their rights. Victim advocates provide crises intervention and referrals to counseling and community services. They also guide victims through the court process and assist victims with restitution. Victim advocates are specifically trained to assist child victims, elderly victims, victims with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and gang violence. Bilingual staff members are available to assist victims in several languages.

VWAP can help crime victims and/or their families receive an array of services, including but not limited to:

- Emergency Assistance
- Property Return Assistance
- Orientation to the Criminal Justice System
- Court Escort/Court Support
- Case Status/Case Disposition Information
- Employer Notification and Intervention
- Victim of Crime Claims and State Compensation Assistance
- Creditor Intervention
- Child Care
- Restitution Information
- Witness Notification and Protection Information
- Funeral Arrangement Assistance
- Crime Prevention Information
- Temporary Restraining Order Information
- Transportation Assistance

In addition, VWAP staff can help victims receive financial assistance from California's Crime Victim Compensation Program for eligible losses, including:

- Medical/Dental Fees
- Mental Health Counseling Fees
- Wage/Income Loss
- Financial Support Loss
- Funeral/Burial Costs
- Job Retraining Costs

If you or someone you know has been a victim of a crime and needs assistance, call VWAP's central office by calling **(213) 974-7499** or the toll free number at **(800) 773-7574**. Program services are provided free of charge and there is no legal residency requirement to receive assistance.

"Protecting Our Kids" - Keeping Children Safe on the Internet

<http://www.lacountyda.org>

Much like the real world, the World Wide Web can be an inviting but dangerous place for children. Young people with unmonitored access to the Internet are exposed to a wide variety of risks, some of them life-threatening. When it comes to where and with whom our kids are allowed to play, what they watch on TV, and how they interact with strangers, responsible parents naturally exercise caution and oversight. We should be just as vigilant in safeguarding our children's Internet activities.

The Internet offers many benefits to children including valuable educational resources and communication tools, but it also offers kids easy access to a variety of objectionable and even dangerous material.

As a result, the District Attorney's Office has created the "Protecting Our Kids" program to help parents and other concerned adults safeguard the Internet activities of young people. "Protecting Our Kids" can be accessed from the District Attorney's Web site at **www.lacountyda.org**. There, you can download pamphlets on Internet safety and read about:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • Real Cases of Internet Crime | • Newsgroups |
| • Parental Control of the Computer | • Blogs |
| • Megan's Law | • Chats |
| • Instant Messaging | • Online Games |
| | • Juvenile Crime Online and Parental Liability |



Department of Public Works (DPW)

(800) 675-4357 24-hour hotline

Road Maintenance

Road Maintenance services, including street sweeping, pothole patching, tree trimming, street paving and sidewalk improvements, are provided by DPW. To report road maintenance concerns in your area, call **(323) 582-7848** between 6:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. or **2-1-1**.

Sewer and Storm Drains

DPW inspects all sewer manholes approximately every six months. This ensures the continuous operation of the public sewer system; and protects the storm drain system, rivers and the ocean from the impact of sewage overflow. To report problems, call **(800) 675 HELP (4357)**.

The storm drain system is separate from the sewage system. Storm drains direct rainwater straight to the ocean to avoid area flooding. Help prevent storm water pollution and keep our oceans and waterways clean by not dumping any trash or waste in storm drains. To report dumping into the County's storm drain system, call **(888) CLEANLA (253-2652)** **24 hours a day**.

Trash on Railroad Rights-of-Way

If you have complaints of trash and overgrown weeds on or near railroad tracks or have questions regarding railroads, please contact the DPW Railroad Coordinator Janet Rodriguez. Ms. Rodriguez will request a response from the railroad companies and can be reached at **(626) 458-3935**.

Bus Stop Shelters

Clear Channel Outdoor and Shelter Clean contracts with DPW for the maintenance of bus shelters in the unincorporated Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park communities. These contractors are responsible for keeping the bus shelters clean and safe. If you have any issues regarding these shelters, please contact Aras Ahmed of DPW, at **(626) 458-3961** or the Public Works 24-Hour Hotline: **(800) 675 HELP (4357)**.

Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park Beautification

Together we can keep our community clean and our roads safe. You can report illegal dumping; request graffiti removal, **free** bulky item pick-up, and alleyway clean-up; recycle your Christmas Tree; and dispose of old tires and household hazardous waste such as cleaning products, motor oil, and insect sprays. Here are telephone numbers to help you:

Graffiti Removal (neighborhood)

To report graffiti and request removal services, call the Department of Public Works at **(800) 675 HELP (675-4357)**. Your call is kept confidential.

Graffiti Removal (freeway)

To report graffiti on freeway walls and signs, call Caltrans Maintenance Division at **(213) 897-3656**.

Trash Pick-up, Bulky Item Pickup and Alleyway Dumping

Do not place bulky items in the alleyway! Please contact your waste hauler for instructions on where to place your bulky items for free pick-up. To report problems with your trash pick-up (sofas, bookcases, etc.) contact:

- BFI Disposal at **(888) 742-5234** if you reside in Florence-Firestone.
- Consolidated Disposal Service at **(800) 299-4898** or **(800) 528-1105** if you reside in Walnut Park.

Waste Tires

To find a County sponsored Waste Tire Collection Event or to report illegal dumping, please call **(888) CLEANLA (253-2652)**, visit the CLEAN LA Web site at **www.888CleanLA.com** or contact your waste hauler.



Shopping Cart Retrieval

It is illegal to remove shopping carts from business establishments. Please report abandoned shopping carts for pick up by calling **(800) 252-4613**.

Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste



To find a **FREE** County sponsored Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Collection event near you or to report illegal dumping, please call **(888) CLEANLA (253-2652)** or visit the CLEAN LA website at **www.888CleanLA.com**. Common Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste include:

Household Hazardous Waste

Lawn/garden-care products

Paint and paint-related products

Automotive fluids

Household cleaners

Batteries

Beauty products

Medicines

E-Waste

Electronics

Computers

Television sets

Cell phones

Illegal Dumping into the Storm Drain

To report dumping into the County's storm drain system, call **(888) CLEANLA (253-2652)** 24 hours per day.



Illegal Dumping onto the Public Right-of-Way



Remember, it is illegal to dump debris, such as, tires, bulky items, lawn clippings, onto alleyways, lots, sidewalks, and streets. If you see illegal dumping occurring, please report to the Century Sheriff's Station at **(323) 568-4800**. To report debris left on the County right-of-way, please contact the

Department of Public Works, Road Maintenance Division, at **(323) 582-7848**.

Yard Sales

What better way to get rid of some of your unwanted old clothing, children's toys, and other household items than through a yard or garage sale. You should be aware of the following regulations that apply to all unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County including Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park.



- Only two personal property yard sales per home will be allowed annually.
- Items sold are limited to the personal property of the resident where the sale is conducted.
- Resale items are not allowed to be sold.
- One on-site sign no larger than four (4) square feet, advertising the sale shall be allowed. The sign may be double-sided and facing in both directions.
- Each sale is not to exceed three consecutive days.
- Sales are not allowed between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Graffiti Removal (800) 675-4357



**Did you know you
can call the Graffiti Hotline and
confidentially report graffiti?**

Graffiti is often a form of gang communication and a blight to the community which is why graffiti vandalism should be reported as soon as possible. For graffiti removal in the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park areas, you can contact the County Graffiti Hotline at **(800) 675-4357**.

The graffiti removal hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The County of Los Angeles strives for a 48-hour response when calls are received via the hotline. In order for us to respond in a timely manner, please answer the brief questions our operators may ask you. **The hotline operator will ask for a call back phone number in case they need more specific location information, but remember your call remains confidential and you can choose to remain anonymous.**

Calls for graffiti removal on property which is not the responsibility of the County of Los Angeles will be referred to the appropriate agency, such as; Caltrans, Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), Metrolink, United States Post Office, Southern California Edison, or the 88 Cities within the Los Angeles County.

Know Your Rights When You Are Solicited For House Number Curb Painting

Before you say "Yes" to any solicitor who wants you to pay them to paint your house number and a logo on the curb in front of your house, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) wants you to be aware of these facts:

- The County **does not** employ anyone to paint house numbers on curbs.
- The solicitor **cannot** charge you for any curb painting service. However, you can volunteer to give a monetary donation if you wish.
- Legally, you are **not obligated** to have your house number on the curb. Having your curb painted with your house number is voluntary. However, the Fire Department recommends that your address is clearly marked on the front of your house. If your house is not visible from the street, you may post a sign next to the vehicle entrance.
- The person requesting to paint your curb must obtain a **Solicitor's License from the Treasurer and Tax Collector** and an **Encroachment Permit from DPW**. The solicitor is required to carry both the Solicitor's License and the Encroachment Permit with him/her at all times.
- The property owner's permission must be obtained **before** painting the house number and/or logo on the curb.
- The curb painting permittee and solicitor are required to comply with all applicable Los Angeles County Codes.
- The solicitor is required to provide you with a copy of the curb painting guidelines **in writing** and **receive your signature** indicating you understand these guidelines and have given him/her permission to paint your curb.

If you need assistance in resolving a curb painting issue or would like to report a violation, please contact DPW, Alhambra Permit Office, at **(626) 458-3129**.



Code Enforcement

The Departments of Public Works, Regional Planning, Public Health and Fire are actively working to improve the quality of life in your community through code enforcement and property inspections. If you feel that a home or business in your neighborhood has Building, Zoning, Health Code violations, or the property's condition is creating an unsafe environment, you can do something about it...anonymously. All it takes is one phone call to 2-1-1 to register your complaint anonymously. Your complaint will be forwarded to the appropriate departments.

Public Works Building and Safety Division

7807 S. Compton Ave • Los Angeles, CA 90001
(323) 586-6541

The Building and Safety Division is responsible for enforcing all provisions of the Building, Electrical, Plumbing, and Mechanical Codes on private property located within the unincorporated territory of the County of Los Angeles. When conducting inspection of property and buildings, Building and Safety inspectors will cite the following violations:

- Additions or alterations to a structure(s) without required permits.
- Changes to the occupancy or use of a structure(s) without approval.
- Grading work without required permits.
- Installed and energized electrical wiring without permit or inspection.
- Existing electrical wiring that is unsafe.
- Installed mechanical equipment before it has been inspected and approved.
- Installed plumbing without permit or inspection.
- Substandard property and building conditions.

To report possible violations, please call the Building and Safety Office located in the Florence-Firestone Community Service Center at (323) 586-6541.



Fire Prevention and Hazardous Materials

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION



The Fire Prevention Division approves and inspects all new construction including single family dwellings. Fire Prevention inspectors are responsible for the following:

- Public assembly occupancies, (except churches) with 300 or more occupants.
- Manufacturing occupancies over 20,000 square feet.
- Storage and warehouse occupancies over 60,000 square feet.
- All buildings over 75 feet in height
- Business licenses in the unincorporated areas requiring a public hearing.

The inspectors also conduct plan checks for buildings and fire extinguishing systems to ensure that all new structures, schools, and institutions are in compliance with fire and life safety requirements. Contact the Fire Prevention Unit at (310) 603-5258.

HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION (HHMD)



The Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) protects the public health and the environment throughout Los Angeles County from accidental releases and improper handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials. To report discharges, illegal disposals, or for general information please contact HHMD at (323) 890-4045. To contact emergency responders, call (323) 890-4317.

Regional Planning Zoning Enforcement Section

320 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-6453 or dial 2-1-1
Fax a complaint to: (213) 217-5108



Enforcement of the Zoning Code is an important part of Regional Planning's responsibilities. The planner presently assigned to investigate zoning violations in Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park is Mr. Steven Chung and he can be reached at (213) 974-6453. Complaints can be reported anonymously. You can also report violations by dialing 2-1-1. The County of Los Angeles Zoning Ordinance prohibits certain activities in your community and throughout the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The following lists some common zoning violations:

- Storing junk and salvage items.
- Storing inoperable vehicles.
- Parking vehicles in the front yard.
- Parking commercial vehicles on residentially zoned property.
- Operating a business on residentially-zoned property without a permit.
- Using a trailer or recreational vehicle as living quarters.
- Converting of garages to living quarters.
- Converting a single-family dwelling unit to multiple dwelling units without obtaining approval from Regional Planning.
- Installing business signs such as banners and portable signs.
- Displaying and selling merchandise outside of an enclosed building.
- Installing fences over 3-1/2 feet in height in the front yard (with certain exceptions) and over 6 feet in the rear yard.
- Installing an un-permitted tarp or canopy structure, in the front yard or blocking access to the required covered parking.
- Storing commercial vehicles in residential areas.

Keeping You Healthy and Safe in Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park

The Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, is responsible for protecting health and preventing diseases in the County by enforcing public health laws regarding food, housing, and the environment.

Food

Surprise, routine and complaint-related inspections are conducted at food establishments including restaurants, markets, bakeries, bars, stadium concession stands, and food carts/trucks to ensure that food is stored, prepared and served according to State and local laws.



Caution! Unlicensed vending from push carts and vehicles (corn, fruit, food, juice etc.) is prohibited in all unincorporated areas including the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park communities. Food items sold from push carts can be dangerous to your health!

Housing (including apartments, hotels/motels, and condos)

Routine inspections and complaint investigations are made to ensure that all housing units are kept clean, free from vermin (cockroaches, rats and mice) and in good repair. Common housing complaints include:

- Vermin (rats, mice)
- Leaky plumbing
- Damaged floors, walls, and ceilings
- No water/no hot water
- Broken windows or missing screens
- Mold
- Chickens/roosters
- Overflowing sewage
- Green or black water in swimming pools
- Dog droppings
- Overflowing trash

(continued on page 24)



(continued from page 23)

General

Environmental Health is also responsible for inspections at theaters, laundries, vacant lots, ocean water, landfills/dumps, stadiums, fairs, carnivals, and public/private swimming pools.

Complaints

To make a complaint or request information, call or visit one of the following offices that serve your community:

Restaurants, Bakeries, Markets and other Food Inspections:

Southeast Office

5850 S. Main Street, Room 2257

Los Angeles, CA 90003

(323) 235-7009

Single and Multi-Family Housing Inspections:

Metro South Office

695 S. Vermont Avenue, 14th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90005

(213) 351-5085

Preventative Health



Office of Women's Health Hotline: **(800) 793-8090**

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Free or low-cost screenings for breast and cervical cancer, as well as other preventive screenings, are available by appointment or through the referral hotline of the Los Angeles County Office of Women's Health. Additionally, a multi-lingual mobile clinic travels to various locations throughout the County offering free health screenings to low-income women. Call the hotline for more information on the mobile clinic schedule.

HUBERT HUMPHREY Comprehensive Health Center

Urgent Care 7 days a week: 8:00 a.m. - Midnight

5850 S. Main St. • Los Angeles, CA 90003

(323) 846-4312

Appointments and Information

Adult Medicine	(323) 846-4220
Pediatrics	(323) 846-4236
Family Planning	(323) 846-4353
Obstetrics/Gynecology	(323) 846-4065 or (323) 846-4241
Dental	(323) 846-4082
Community Health Plan	(323) 846-4119

RUTH TEMPLE Health Center

3834 S. Western Ave. • Los Angeles, CA 90062

Business Office **(323) 730-3507**

Services provided: TB testing (tuberculosis), immunizations and STD clinic.

STD Clinic (323) 730-3576

(Sexually Transmitted Diseases)

Monday-Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
& 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
& 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Fridays: 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

H. CLAUDE HUDSON Comprehensive Health Center

2829 S. Grand Ave. • Los Angeles, CA 90007
(800) 383-4600

Appointments and Information

To make an appointment, call **(213) 744-3945** or visit the main registration area from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Dental Services (213) 744-3622
Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Free Immunizations for Children and Tetanus Shots for Adults
Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Urgent Care 7 days a week: 8:00 a.m. - Midnight

SOUTH PUBLIC Health Center

1522 E. 102nd St., Los Angeles, CA 90002
(323) 563-4053

Services provided: TB testing (tuberculosis), immunizations and STD clinic.

Registration Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
(Except Wednesday): 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

STD Clinic (Sexually Transmitted Diseases)

Mondays, Tuesdays 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
and Thursdays: 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Fridays: 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

KING/DREW Medical Center now referred to as King/Harbor Medical Center

1201 Wilmington Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90059
(310) 668-4321

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services is committed to providing healthcare to the South Los Angeles community. Please refer to **www.ladhs.org** or call **(310) 668-4321** for the most current information on services available at King/Harbor Medical Center.

Place of Family (substance abuse program)	(323) 564-6982
Appointment Desk	(310) 668-5011
Billing Inquiry	(310) 668-7410
Emergency Room	(310) 668-4426
Laboratory	(310) 668-4441
Medi-Cal Information	(310) 668-3817
Mortuary Clerk	(310) 668-5072
Obstetrics & Gynecology	(310) 668-4601
Occupational Therapy	(310) 668-4861
Orthopedics	(310) 668-4534
Pathology	(310) 668-4441
Patient Information	(310) 668-3711
Pediatrics	(310) 668-4641
Pharmacy	(310) 668-3961
Physical Therapy	(310) 668-4875
Prescription Refill (Automated)	(310) 668-3971
Radiology	(310) 668-4711
Surgery	(310) 668-4520



Did you know that you can dial **2-1-1** to access information for emergency food and shelter, senior services, childcare, employment resources, low-cost health care, alcohol and drug-related support, volunteer opportunities, and many other health and human services resources?

As a resident of the unincorporated area, you can also dial 2-1-1 to access an array of municipal services, including code enforcement at no cost to you. The

2-1-1 information service is provided in many languages.

2-1-1 is operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The information you provide to the resource advisors is confidential.

NOTE: In case of an emergency, you still must dial 9-1-1.

If you are unable to access 2-1-1 directly, please call **(800) 339-6993** or visit the 211 LA County Web site at **www.211LA.org**.

Florence-Firestone Community Service Center

Department of Community and Senior Services

7807 S. Compton Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90001
(323) 586-6502 ; Fax **(323) 582-4071**
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Elder Abuse Hotline: **(877) 4-R-Seniors (477-3646)**

Your One Stop for County Community Services and Resources

Your Community Service Center is managed by the Department of Community and Senior Services. County Department services available at the center include the following (more information concerning many of these services is featured elsewhere in this guide):

Food Pantry/ Utility and Rent Payment Assistance

Emergency assistance is available to those who qualify. Food items are available free to local residents Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Utility Assistance is also available. You will be asked to provide verification of income and identification for assistance programs. For more information, please call **(323) 586-6501** to pre-register for any of these programs.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Second District Field Office

When you need assistance with a County-related matter, contact your District staff representatives, located at the Center. For more information, please contact **(323) 586-6523**.

Los Angeles County Department of Registrar Recorder/County Clerk

(323) 586-6192

If you need a Birth, Death or Marriage certificate, the Registrar Recorder/County Clerk can assist you.

- Birth and Death certificates: same day service is only available for full copies of birth records that occurred from 1964 to the present. There is a \$17 charge per copy and a valid photo ID will be requested when a birth record is requested in person. Copies that are requested in person for birth records occurring prior to 1964 are mailed within 15 working days.
- Marriage licenses can be issued if requested one hour or more prior to closing, or during the following hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Civil marriage ceremonies are performed on Fridays only.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works-Building and Safety Division

The Department will assist you in obtaining building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical permits. They also enforce building code violations. (323) 586-6541

Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs

Landlord-Tenant mediation, credit counseling, and consumer and referral services are available at the Center. (323) 586-6508

Community Union Technology Enhancement Program

Free computer classes for children, youth, adult, and senior citizens are offered at the center. Call the Service Center at (877) 776-7274 for more information.

Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation

You can obtain "Usage Permits" for events held at County Parks from the Center. Information on park cultural and recreational programs is also available at this office. For more information, please call (323) 586-6543.

Volunteer Services and Community Service Referrals

The Center works in partnership with local high schools, colleges and universities for internship programs and training. The Service Center also provides on-the-job training to participants who are referred from the Court and CalWorks. For more information please call (323) 586-6501.

Old Timers Foundation Senior Citizens Nutrition Program

Hot, nutritional meals and recreational activities are available if you are age 60 years or older. Please contact the Service Center to pre-register. For more information contact (323) 586-6547.

Attention Seniors! Metro Transit Identification Cards Available Now

You can obtain a Metro Senior Identification Card if you are 62 years of age and older. This card allows you to obtain a Metro discount sticker from approved vendors. Metro Disabled Identification Card Applications for residents ages 61 years of age and under with disabilities are also available at the front desk of the Service Center. For more information please call (323) 586-6501.

Senior Employment and Training Program

If you are 55 years older there are training opportunities for you in community service employment through the Senior Employment and Training Program. For more information please call (323) 586-6502.

Senior Activities – Join in on the fun!

Various activities are offered for seniors including; exercise classes, arts and crafts, and a mobile reading library. For information on activity schedules, please contact the Service Center at (323) 586-6547.

Report Elder Abuse

If you are a victim or know of someone who is an elder or dependent adult that is being abused, your complaint can be reported to the Elder Abuse Hotline by calling (877) 477-3646. This includes reports of physical, sexual, and financial abuse, neglect and mental suffering, as well as reports of self-neglect. DCSS Adult Protective Services provides both emergency and non-emergency intervention services.



Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures

Established in 1881, the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures Department protects the health and safety of the County's residents and improves the quality of the environment through the enforcement of Federal, State and local laws and regulations.



Here are some services provided by the Department.
For more information, visit <http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>.

Pest/weed control information	(626) 575-5462
Weed and brush abatement/removal	(626) 575-5484
Gasoline station complaints	(562) 940-8911
Meter inspections/consumer complaints (gas, water, electric)	(562) 940-8911
Scale inspections/consumer complaints (grocery stores, delicatessens, etc.)	(562) 940-8911
Investigation of packaged goods (short weight, count, measure, etc.)	(562) 940-8911
Coyote complaints	(626) 575-5462
Pesticide misuse, pesticide illness investigations and bee hazards	(626) 575-5466
Investigation of fruits/produce brought into Los Angeles County	(562) 940-7803

Registrar-Recorder/ County Clerk

Norwalk Headquarters

12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650
Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
General Information: **(800) 815-2666**
Election Information: **(562) 466-1310**

Florence-Firestone Branch

Florence-Firestone Service Center
7807 S. Compton Avenue, Room 215
Los Angeles, CA 90001
Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(323) 586-6192

Services available at the Florence-Firestone Branch:

- Issue full certified copies of birth records in the County from 1964 to present.
- Issue marriage abstracts for marriages in the County from 1995 to present.
- Accept request for full copies of birth, death and marriage records.
- Issue marriage licenses (issued until 3:30 pm).
- Perform marriage ceremonies on Fridays by appointment.
- Accept domestic partnership statements.
- Accept voter registration forms.
- Issue voter abstracts.
- Accept passport applications.



Learn the facts – *protect yourself against fraud!*

Department of Consumer Affairs



The Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is the largest local consumer protection agency in the United States providing assistance with consumer and business concerns.

7807 S. Compton Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90001
323-586-6508 / Toll-Free Number **(800) 593-8222**
<http://lacountydca.info>

Visit the Florence-Firestone branch office in the Florence-Firestone Community Center Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Consumers can come in person or call this branch office on these days.

All of DCA's services are free. Services offered include:

Consumer Protection (800) 593-8222

Counselors answer questions about purchases, credit, automobiles, landlord-tenant disputes, identity theft and other consumer problems. DCA will investigate your complaint or provide counseling and referrals.

Small Claims Advisors (213) 974-9759

DCA can help you with a Small Claims Court case. Advisors will give you the information you need to:

- Get your case started
- Prepare for court
- Serve court papers
- Collect or pay a judgment

Real Estate Fraud and Homeowner Assistance (800) 973-3370

DCA provides counseling, investigates complaints, and serves as the central reporting agency for real estate fraud. DCA can help you with problems concerning:

- A home purchase or sale
- Contractors
- Undeveloped land sales
- Real estate fraud
- Refinancing
- Foreclosure

Dispute Settlement Service (213) 974-0825

Instead of going to court, neutral and unbiased mediators can help you resolve disputes with neighbors, businesses, and others.

Senior Abuse and Fraud Protection (213) 974-9778

Staff investigates cases of financial fraud and abuse against seniors.

Volunteer and Intern Opportunities

(213) 974-9740

DCA offers rewarding opportunities for volunteers and interns to work with consumer affairs professionals. Volunteers and interns assist staff with consumer counseling, mediation, investigations, and special projects.

Public Information and Community Outreach

(213) 974-9750

DCA takes consumer outreach and education seriously by providing:

- Speakers for groups and events
- Information by telephone 24/7
- Tip sheets on a wide range of consumer issues.
- Extensive web resources at the newly enhanced Web site <http://lacountydca.info>

IDENTITY THEFT - How Thieves Get Your Information!

Identity thieves are not always strangers! They can be your neighbor, a friend or even a family member. They can get your information by using the following methods:

- 1. "Dumpster Diving":** Digging through trash looking for bank statements, credit card bills, or credit offers you did not shred. They use this information to open new accounts or make charges in your name.
- 2. "Shoulder Surfing":** Identity thieves look over your shoulder when you are using an ATM or conducting business on your computer or laptop.
- 3. Mail Theft:** Thieves know that your mailbox is filled with important financial information, so keep it locked and pick up your mail as soon as possible.

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(continued from page 29)

- 4. E-mail:** Identity thieves send you e-mails that ask you to verify personal info. Your bank or credit card company will never ask you to verify personal information by e-mail. Do not reply to such emails.

PROTECT YOURSELF!

- Shred bank and credit card statements.
- Review your credit card and bank statements as soon as you get them. If you do not recognize charges, dispute them immediately.
- Review your credit report at least once a year. Obtain a free credit report at www.annualcreditreport.com or by calling (877) 332-8228.
- Collect your mail right away. Do not send bill payments from home. Thieves can steal outgoing mail that contains your financial information.
- Guard your Social Security and Driver's License number. Do not carry your Social Security card or number in your wallet.
- Always take receipts. Do not leave ATM, credit card or gas station receipts behind.
- Keep an eye on your credit card. Criminals can use small devices called skimmers to collect information on your card.
- Be careful about giving out your financial information. If a sales person or cashier asks for your Social Security number or Driver's License number, ask why the information is needed.
- Get off the telemarketer's list. To do this, register with the "Do-Not-Call" at www.donotcall.gov.



- Do not give out personal financial information over the telephone, especially if you did not initiate a transaction.

DCA Provides the Following Tips on Hiring a Contractor

1. Check the contractor's license

Call the California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) at (800) 321-2752.

2. Only hire a licensed contractor

3. Get three bids

It's important to shop around before hiring a contractor. Ask for references.

4. Avoid high-pressure sales tactics

Don't sign a contract before you've had time to think it over or get other bids.

5. Get a written contract

All promises should be in writing. Once you've hired a contractor, make sure the contract states: job description, costs, completion date and building material description.

6. You have three days to cancel

You can cancel within three business days of signing the contract. Send the contractor a written notice of cancellation by certified mail to the address listed on the contract. You cannot cancel by telephone.

7. Keep the down payment small

Contractors can only collect a down payment of \$1,000 or 10% of the total cost, whichever is less.

8. Schedule your payments

Make sure you pay based on work that has been completed.

If you are not satisfied with the work, file a complaint with CSLB at (800) 321-2752.

9. Never pay cash

You won't have proof of payment. Pay with checks, money orders, or credit cards. Keep records of all payments you've made.

10. Know when to make your final payment

Make sure you are satisfied with the work before signing a Completion Certificate. Don't make the final payment until the job is completely finished.

For more information, call Homeowner Assistance at (800) 973-3370 or visit <http://lacountydca.info>

Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector



Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
(First Floor)
225 North Hill Street
Los Angeles, 90012

Toll-free: (888) 807-2111

ttcmail@ttc.lacounty.gov

http://ttax.co.la.ca.us

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Property Tax Information

A new Web site has been designed to provide taxpayers with an overview and to answer the most common questions related to property taxes and assessments. Please visit the site at **http://lacountypropertytax.com** for additional information.

Annual Property Taxes

Annual tax bills are mailed each year during the first week of October. The First Installment must be received or postmarked by **December 10th**. The Second Installment must be received or postmarked by **April 10th**.

Online Payments

In addition to paying your property taxes by check or credit card (current year only), you can now make your payment online using Virtual Check (VCheck). For more information, go to **http://lacountypropertytax.com** and click "Payment Options".

Payment Assistance Programs

If you are a senior citizen or a disabled person, there are programs available to postpone payment of your taxes or

provide payment assistance. For more information, please call **(213) 974-7222** to speak with a Senior Citizen Representative.

There is also a special program for military personnel and payment plans for delinquent taxes. Please call **(888) 807-2111** for more information.

Business Licenses

Certain types of business activities in the unincorporated areas of the County require a County Business License. Please call **(213) 974-2011** to determine if you need a license to operate your business.

Voluntary Third Party Notification Program

In the event your property becomes tax defaulted and/or subject to sale due to a tax delinquency, you can designate a Third Party (e.g., a friend, family member, or agency) to receive copies of the default notices so they can remind you of your property tax obligation. Please call **(213) 974-2111** or toll free at **(888) 807-2111** for additional information. You can also complete and submit this application online at **http://ttax.co.la.ca.us**.

Office of the Assessor

http://lacounty.propertytax.com

The Los Angeles County Assessor establishes the assessed value of your property by appraising its value under applicable State laws. The assessed value is then placed on the Los Angeles County "Assessment Roll." The Assessor also approves and applies all Property Tax exemptions, which are added to the Assessment Roll. In addition, the Assessor is responsible for:

- Senior Citizen Transfer (Propositions 60 and 90)
- Name/Address Change Related to Property
- Supplemental Property Tax Bills
- Change in Property Ownership
- Boats/Aircraft
- Property Maps & Data
- Decline In Property Value
- Business Property Taxes



Child Support Services

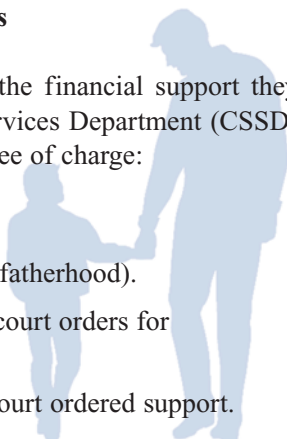
Customer Service Call Center **(323) 890-9800**

<http://childsupport.co.la.ca.us>

In order to help children get the financial support they deserve, the Child Support Services Department (CSSD) offers the following services free of charge:

Locating parents

- Establishing paternity (legal fatherhood).
- Establishing and modifying court orders for child support.
- Collecting and distributing court ordered support.



- Working with other counties, states and countries to obtain child support.

The CSSD, Division II office is located in Commerce at 5770 S. Eastern Avenue, not far from the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park areas. Offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

In addition, there are Child Support Officers on duty at the Customer Service Call Center at **(323) 890-9800** from 6:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Callers can choose to speak to a Child Support Officer about their case or access information via the 24-hour Automated System.

Public Social Services

Florence District 17 Office

1740 East Gage Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90001

Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

General Information **(323) 586-7263**

Participant Help Line **(323) 586-7299**

Your community is served by the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) Florence District 17 Office. Services offered include:

- **CalWORKS Program:** this program can provide you with temporary financial assistance and employment services if you have a family with minor children and your income and property are below the State maximum limits for your family size. CalWORKS Emergency assistance is available to prevent your eviction or help you pay overdue utility bills. To determine if you qualify, contact your eligibility worker or **(877) 481-1044**.
- **Food Stamps Program:** If you are in a low-income household and need assistance to purchase food, call **(877) 597-4777** to see if you are eligible for the Food Stamp program.

- **Medi-Cal:** This program pays for medical care if your savings and income are too low to provide for your own care.

Additional services offered at the District 17 Office include mental health counseling and child care referral services provided by community organizations. These services are subject to availability. For more information about these programs or DPSS services not offered at the District 17 office, please contact the Participant Help Line at **(323) 586-7299**.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) provides funding and guidance for a network of local, nonprofit agencies with missions to assist homeless persons with housing, case management, counseling, advocacy, substance abuse programs, and other specialized services.

Homeless Services

General Information: **(213) 683-3333**

Emergency Shelter: **(800) 339-6993 or 2-1-1**

Winter Shelter Hotline: **(800) 548-6047**



Toy Loan

The Program with a Heart

The Toy Loan Program is a joint volunteer effort by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Public Social Services which loans toys to children in the community at no cost. Much like a library, Toy Loan participants, borrow toys that are “checked out” by “Toyrarians” overseeing the program. Toy Loan has an honor code and merit system to help children develop a sense of responsibility and gain praise and recognition for returning the toys in good condition.

Individuals, toy manufacturers and other companies donate toys, new and used, that are refurbished for the free program. Also, monetary donations are welcome year round. All donations made to the program are greatly appreciated and tax-deductible.

You are invited to visit the Toy Loan Centers in your community:

- Athens Park, 12603 S. Broadway St., Los Angeles
- Human Services Association, 6800 Florence Ave., Bell Gardens
- New Directions, 1213 W. 47th St., Los Angeles
- S.O.A.R., 6052 S. Normandie Ave., Los Angeles

For more information on the Toy Loan Program, other Center locations, or to make donations, please call (213) 744-4344 or visit: www.ladpss.org/dpss/toyloan.



New Health and Human Services Website!



www.LACountyHelps.org

The LACountyHelps.org Web site provides a safe, secure, confidential way for County residents to research and see if they are eligible for a variety of helpful services and benefits. Users will receive interactive contact information with links to local County offices which provide the services and driving directions to these offices.

Services included on the site are:

Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, Healthy Kids

Child health and disability prevention program

In-home supportive services

Child care resources and referral information

Foster family recruitment

Adoption services

The Web site is designed to be easily navigated and includes a video tutorial demonstrating basic computer skills and how to use the site. The site is available in both English and Spanish, with plans to expand to other languages in the near future. If you do not have Internet access at home, you may go to any Los Angeles County Public Library to obtain online access.



County of Los Angeles Public Library

www.colapublib.org

Residents of Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park are fortunate to have two libraries in the community. There is something for everyone!

New to the Public Libraries: Consumer Health Information Program and Services (CHIPS)



CHIPS is a health information program sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Public Library and the Los Angeles County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Library. CHIPS provides answers to reference questions, circulates health materials, and provides information and referrals. The program is designed to provide current, accurate medical information and materials on request. Consumers may call **(310) 830-0909** or e-mail referenceservices@gw.colapl.org for health information. Visit <http://www.colapublib.org/services/chipsites.html> for links to medical informational Web sites which CHIPS frequently uses.

*B*e a friend to the Library. Join the Friends of the Library and support your local branch with other people from your community. If you are interested in promoting the welfare and growth of your library, you can:

Offer community support • Stimulate public awareness • Seek out sources of cultural and educational programs

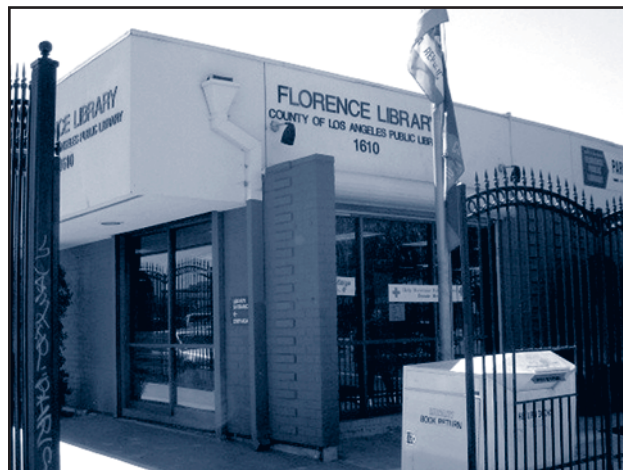
YOUR LOCAL LIBRARIES

Florence Library

1610 E. Florence Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90001
(323) 581-8028

Florence Library History

Library service to the community began in 1914 with a collection of 125 titles housed in the home of Fred W. Cleland at 1920 E. Florence Avenue. Mrs. Maude Cleland was the volunteer custodian of the collection. On June 30, 1915, the collection of 508 books was moved to Florence Avenue Elementary School. In 1920, the collection of 1,000 books and 11 magazine subscriptions was moved into a building with a converted stable at 7607 Crocket Boulevard. In 1924, the library was then housed at 7215 Beach Boulevard and then moved in 1931-32 to a storefront building at the corner of Makee Street and Florence Avenue. This storefront facility was refurbished in 1964 for the 50th anniversary of the Florence Library. In 1970, the library was moved to its current location on 1610 East Florence Avenue.



Operating Hours

Sundays/Holidays	Closed
Mondays	11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays and Wednesdays	11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays	11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Graham Library

1900 E. Firestone Boulevard • Los Angeles, CA 90001
(323) 582-2903

Graham Library History

Graham Library was established in April 1915 and was located in a local school. Two years later the library was moved into a store building. The policy during this era was that the County furnished books and a location had to be identified and operated with a volunteer librarian (then referred to as a custodian). In 1928, the library was moved to a building located on Glendale and New Hampshire (now Holmes Avenue and 85th Street) which today serves as a church. The library then moved to 8629 Date Street (Bandera Avenue) into a store building behind the old Kinney's Pharmacy. After the 1933 Earthquake, this building had to be torn down. In 1938, the Graham Library moved to new quarters at the corner of Boston (now 87th Street) and Fir Avenue and continued there until 1969 when the present library was built on Firestone Boulevard. The Fir Avenue building still exists today and serves as a community church. The Graham Library was rededicated on November 8, 2001 after a renovation.



In 1928 Graham Library was relocated to a building on Glendale and New Hampshire Streets. This building still exists at the same location on streets re-named Holmes Avenue and 85th Street.

Operating Hours

Sundays/Holidays	Closed
Mondays and Tuesdays	11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesdays and Thursdays	11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays	11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Children's Programs at the Libraries

Story times: Florence Library has pre-school story time every Monday at 11:30 a.m. Graham Library has story time every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

Family Place: Florence Library has a Family Place Center with toys and seating for adult care givers and very young children. Family Place workshops are held several times a year. Call the library for times.

Homework Centers: Both libraries have Homework Centers with computers, materials, and trained staff to help students with schoolwork.

Live Homework Help: This free online service connects students in grades 4-12 with live tutors in math, science, English and Social Studies. Use it in the library or at any location with an Internet connection. Go to www.librarytutors.org.

Book Talk for school age children and their parents is offered every Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at the Florence Library. A related craft follows the book discussion.

Summer Reading Program: Kids can keep up their reading skills in the summer months – June through August – by joining summer reading activities.



Local youth celebrate Graham Library's 50th anniversary with library staff and Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. (1965)

Traffic and Lighting

Department of Public Works (DPW)

Street Lighting

24 Hour Hotline: **(800) 675 HELP (675-4357)**
 Street Light Maintenance: **(626) 300-4754**

The Department of Public Works-Traffic and Lighting Division oversees all traffic-related improvements and modifications in the unincorporated areas of the County including regulatory signs, speed humps, traffic signals, and crosswalks. The 24-hour hotline, allows for quick responses for both emergency and non-emergency situations involving traffic signals. For specific street lighting maintenance requests call **(626) 300-4754**.

Neighborhood Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

You are encouraged to identify your traffic-related concerns to improve the safety of neighborhoods for all who use the roadways. DPW will work with your community to identify appropriate and effective traffic management devices and controls. It is important to be aware of the rules and regulations of the road, especially pedestrians and children between the ages of 5 and 18 who walk to school. Speeding, accidents, and other traffic violations can be reported to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) by calling **(310) 516-3355** or the 24-hour hot line at **(323) 906-3434**.

To request more traffic safety mechanisms (stop signs, traffic signals, etc.) please contact the DPW – Traffic Investigations Unit by calling **(626) 300-4708**. DPW will investigate your concern and report back to you with its findings. For additional information on programs to improve the traffic safety in your neighborhood, please contact DPW or log onto www.ladpw.org.



Transportation Services

DIAL-A-RIDE

Registration and Reservations: **(323) 563-5653**
 Reservation: **(323) 563-5653**

Residents of Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park, 60 years or older, can call Dial-A-Ride for a shared ride and curb-to-curb transportation service. Proof of age is required for riders 60 years or older. Riders under the age of 60 years require a letter from a physician specifying your condition of disability. You will need to reserve service at least 24 hours prior to your trip.

Fare:

The fare is \$0.50 per one-way trip.

Hours of Service:

Monday-Friday	7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturdays	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sundays	No Service

Service is not provided on the following Holidays:

New Year's Day • Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day
 Memorial Day • Presidents' Day • Independence Day
 Veterans Day • Labor Day • Thanksgiving Day
 Christmas Day.

Escorts are allowed at no charge if accompanying persons with disabilities. The service area includes the unincorporated communities of Athens, Florence-Firestone, Rancho Dominguez, Walnut Park, and Willowbrook. In addition, residents can ride to areas up to three miles outside of the unincorporated County area boundaries including the following locations: Centinela Hospital, King/Harbor Medical Center, Gardena Memorial Hospital, St. Francis Medical Center, Daniel Freeman Hospital, Quincy Medical Center, Kennedy Hospital, All Care Clinic, California Orthopedic Hospital, and Stonewood Shopping Center. Kaiser's Bellflower, Downey, Harbor, and Rosecrans locations are not served by Dial-A-Ride.



ACCESS SERVICES

Access Customer Service: **(800) 827-0829 (TTD 800-827-1359)**

Access Ride Info: **(800) 431-7882**

Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Access Paratransit is an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-mandated public transportation service for people unable to use regular bus or light rail services in Los Angeles County. Access Paratransit service is curb-to-curb and requires an in-person certification interview in order to become a registered rider. To obtain an application, please contact

Access Customer Service. Access Ride Info is a **FREE** referral service that matches an individual's transportation needs with available accessible transportation services. Call Access Ride Info from anywhere in Los Angeles County for quick and accurate referrals to more than 200 public and private accessible transportation providers in Los Angeles County.

Metro Blue Line

The Metro Blue Line is Los Angeles' first light rail transit system. The Blue Line runs from 7th Street in Downtown L.A., through the communities of Vernon, Huntington Park, South Gate, Florence-Firestone, Watts, Compton, Carson, finally ending in downtown Long Beach. The Metro Blue Line is operated and administered by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro). There are two stations serving the Florence-Firestone community. One way tickets are valid traveling away from the station of purchase, and are good for two hours. Round-trip tickets run until the end of the operating day. Passengers ride on the honor system and are required to carry a valid ticket, pass or transfer. Failure to carry any of these upon inspection results in a \$250 fine. Trains run seven days a week, including holidays, every 5 to 15 minutes.

General information number:
(800) COMMUTE or (800) 266-6883

Firestone Station

8615 Graham Avenue.
Los Angeles 90002
6 Bike Rack Spaces

Florence Station

7225 Graham Avenue.
Los Angeles 90002
100 Park/Ride Lot Spaces
12 Bike Rack Spaces/4 Locker Spaces

Regular Fares

\$1.25 One-Way
\$.90 One-Way (via Discount Token)
\$3.00 Day Pass
\$.25 Transfer to Metro Bus or Rail
Children under 5 ride free.

Senior/Handicapped Fares

\$.45 One-Way
\$1.50 Day Pass
\$.10 Transfer to Metro Bus or Rail

Free automobile and motorcycle parking is available for Blue Line commuters at the following stations:

Florence / Rosa Parks - Imperial/Wilmington / Compton / Artesia / Del Amo / Wardlow / Willow

Bicycles: Cyclists with a Metro Cycle Express Permit may bring their bicycles on board the Metro Rail trains. For a bike permit application, call **(213) 922-7000**.



Discount Bus Pass for Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park Residents

County Project Manager: (626) 458-5960

Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park residents are eligible to participate in the County's Bus Pass Subsidy Program with the Metro for discounted MTA Passes and EZ Passes as follows:

BUS PASS TYPE	Regular Price	Discount Price
Seniors/Disabled	\$12.00	\$ 6.00
Students (K-12)	20.00	12.00
Students (College/Vocational)	30.00	19.00
EZ Seniors/Disabled	29.00	15.00
MTA General Pass for Florence-Firestone Residents	52.00	38.00
EZ General Pass Florence-Firestone Residents	58.00	44.00

Steps to acquiring your subsidized bus pass

1. Obtain age and residency certification by visiting a Customer Center location, filling out a certification application, and providing proof of residency and eligibility. Eligibility requirements are listed on Metro's website at http://www.metro.net/riding_metro/riders_guide/passes_tokens.htm or call (626) 458-5960.
2. Once you have your eligibility certification form, you may purchase your monthly pass at a Customer Center or at an approved pass sales outlet.

Customer Centers

Gateway Customer Center

One Gateway Plaza
East Portal-Los Angeles

Wilshire

5301 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles

Baldwin Hills

3650 West Martin Luther King Boulevard
Suite 101 B
Los Angeles

East Los Angeles

4501 "B" Whittier Boulevard
Los Angeles

Approved Pass Sales Outlets in or near Florence-Firestone

Nix Check Cashing

1969 Firestone Boulevard
Los Angeles
(323) 588-3177

You may only purchase subsidized passes here after you obtain eligibility certification.





Welcome to the Los Angeles County
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



Community Development Commission

Local resources funded in your community

The Community Development Commission (CDC) administers programs that provide assistance to individuals seeking to buy a home, repair their home, start a business, and /or expand their business. In addition, CDC contract with various Community-Based Organizations, which provide services with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Below are some of the programs and services that are available.

Florence Firestone Chamber of Commerce uses CDBG funding to better develop and manage the Florence Firestone business community. Telephone: **(323) 589-4222**

Kids in Sports offers youth sports programs at Bethune Park as well as other Parks throughout the County. Telephone: **(213) 765-1900**

Shelter Partnership collects and distributes clothing and household items to homeless shelters. Telephone: **(213) 688-2188**

United Peace Officers Against Crime (UPAC) offers youth summer camp programs for at-risk youth, 8-15 years of age. Telephone: **(213) 300-3870**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles Mentoring Outreach Project provides positive role models for our youth. Telephone: **(800) 207-7567**

Junior Blind of America uses CDBG funding for their Infant Family Project. Telephone **(323) 295-4555**

Steelworker Old Timers Foundation Senior Meals Program, delivers hot meals and provides services to seniors living in the Florence/Firestone and Walnut Park areas. Telephone: **(323) 582-6090**

Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) provides minor home repair and home improvement rehabilitation services to eligible low- and moderate-income households throughout the Second Supervisorial District. Telephone: **(323) 989-3248**

Housing Rights Center Fair Housing Assistance Program educates the public on their rights to fair housing. Telephone: **(800) 477-5977**

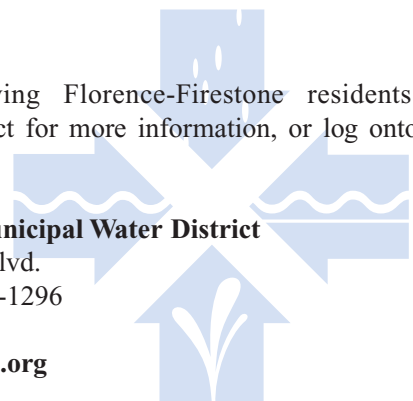
Central Basin Municipal Water District

Where does your water come from? Your drinking water is imported from Northern California and the Colorado River Aqueduct. The Central Basin Municipal Water District is responsible for purchasing imported water for your community and ensuring the quality of your drinking water. The District also develops a Conservation Master Plan and promotes conservation through community education workshops. You are served by two elected directors serving the following areas; District III, serving Walnut Park residents, and

District IV, serving Florence-Firestone residents. Contact the District for more information, or log onto their Website.

Central Basin Municipal Water District

17140 S. Avalon Blvd.
Carson, CA 90746-1296
(310) 217-2222
www.centralbasin.org



Year-Round Activities for Everyone!



The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is proud to offer recreational activities and special events through local parks in the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park area. Residents are encouraged to participate at the following local and regional facilities. All programs are subject to change. Please contact your local park for up to date program information.

Attention Swimmers! Roosevelt Park Pool and Ted Watkins Pool will be undergoing construction upgrades. Year-round swimming programs and summer swim will be affected. Please contact your local park office for more information.

Mary Bethune Park

1244 E. 61st Street
Los Angeles, CA 90001
(323) 846-1895

Hours: Sunday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mary McCloud Bethune Park, formerly named Slauson Park, is named after one of America's greatest educational advocates and civil rights leaders. Dr. Bethune (1875-1955) was one of the most influential African-American women in United States history. She was born in South Carolina, and the first member of her family born free. She established a school for young black women which later became Bethune-Cookman College in Jacksonville, Florida. She also founded and served as president of the National Council of Negro Women.



Karate 4+
Mondays and Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: \$30 (One time fee for uniform and belt)

Walking Club All ages
Friday 10:00 a.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

After School Tutoring 5 - 18
Monday through Thursday 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Fridays 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Indoor Soccer 12 - 18
Sundays 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Community Meeting All ages
The community is invited to attend and discuss park programs, and make program recommendations.
2nd Tuesday of the month 5:30 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Family Night All ages
2nd Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Movie Mania All ages
Sundays 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Sunday Skate 5 - 18
Sundays 3:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Summer Day Camp 6 - 12
Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
June 2007 through September 2007
Fee: \$30 per week

Summer Lunch

Monday through Friday 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 July 2007 through September 2007
 Fee: Free of charge

Snacks

Monday through Friday 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Year-Round
 Fee: Free of charge



Franklin D. Roosevelt Park

Senior Center (323) 586-7228
 Recreation Office (323) 586-7201
 7600 Graham Avenue
 Los Angeles, CA 90001

Franklin D. Roosevelt Park is one of the oldest parks in the County's system. Construction of the Park was authorized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) building project during the 1930 Great Depression.

After School Enrichment Program

Monday through Friday 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 September 2007 through September 2008
 Fee: Free of charge

Mini Mascot Cheer

Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 September 2007 through June 2008
 Fee: \$35.00 plus cost of uniform

Mascot Cheer

Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 September 2007 through June 2008
 Fee: \$35.00 plus cost of uniform

Pee-Wee Cheer

8 - 10
 Tuesdays and Thursdays
 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 September 2007 - June 2008
 Fee: \$35.00 plus cost of uniform



All-Star Cheer

8 - 17
 Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 September 2007 through June 2008
 Fee: \$35.00 plus cost of uniform

Pee-Wee Hip Hop Team

5 - 9
 Fridays 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 September 2007 through June 2008
 Fee: \$25.00 plus cost of uniform

Junior and Senior Hip-Hop

12 - 17
 Fridays 6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
 September 2007 through June 2008
 Fee: \$25.00 plus cost of uniform

Computer Club

6 - 12
 Monday through Thursday 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Year-Round
 Fee: Free of charge

Day Camp

6 - 12
 Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 September 2007 through June 2008
 Fee: \$5.00 per week

Self Defense and Safety Awareness

4 - 15
 Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.
 Year-Round
 Fee: \$5.00 per session

Snack Program

18 and under
 Monday through Friday 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Year-Round
 Fee: Free of charge

Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (continued)

YOUTH SPORTS

Soccer League

5 - 15

Tuesday through Friday

5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Saturdays

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Year-Round

Fee: \$25.00 per player

ADULT PROGRAMS

Aerobics and Fitness

18 +

Tuesday through Friday

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Year-Round

Fee: \$25.00 per month

Azteca Dance Group

8 +

Tuesdays and Thursdays

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Year-Round

Fee: Free of charge

Open Gym

All ages

Monday-Friday

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturdays

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sundays

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Year-Round

Fee: Free of charge

Open Volleyball Adult

18 +

Sundays

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Year-Round

Fee: Free of charge

Un Paso Más: Support Group for parents and guardians of disabled children

18 +

1st and 3rd Monday of each month

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Year-Round

Fee: Free of charge

Weight Room Fitness

18 +

Monday through Friday

1:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Year-Round

Fee: \$10.00 per month

Live Band and Dancing

18 + over

Fee: Free of charge

For schedule information, please contact the park at (323) 586-7228

SENIOR PROGRAMS

Aerobics

55 +

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Year-Round

Fee: Free of charge

Bingo

55 +

Monday through Friday

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Year-Round

Fee: \$.25 donation per card



Crochet Class

55 +

Wednesday through Friday

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Year-Round

Fee: Free of charge

Monthly Blood Pressure and Sugar Level Testing

55 +

Year-Round

Fee: Free of charge

For date and time information, please contact the park at (323) 586-7228.

Monthly Field Trips

55 +

Year-Round

Fee: Free of charge

For date, time, and schedule information, please contact the park at (323) 586-7228

Senior Breakfast

55 +

Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Year-Round

Fee: \$1.75 donation for ages 65 +
\$3.75 donation for ages 64 and under

Senior Lunch Meals

55 +

Monday through Friday 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Year-Round

Fees: \$1.75 donation for ages 65 and older
\$3.75 donation for ages 64 and under

Become a Junior Lifeguard!

The Junior Lifeguard program may be right for you if you between the ages of 11-16. You will be given a basic understanding of lifesaving principles and injury prevention skills that can be used around aquatic settings. The program also builds a foundation of knowledge, attitudes, and abilities to become future lifeguards.

**Please contact the Roosevelt Park Office for the status of the pool construction project by calling (323) 586-7228.*

Walnut Nature Park

2642 East Olive Street
Walnut Park, CA 90255
(323) 586-7260

Winter Schedule (November-March)

Closed Monday-Friday
Open Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Spring Schedule (March-October)

Open Monday-Friday 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Walnut Nature Park was created through a joint venture between the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation and the Los Angeles Unified School District in 1998. This recreation facility provides the community with organized activities and open recreation in space that was once an empty lot.



RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Aerobics Classes

18+

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: \$10.00 per month

Cheerleading

7-16

Days: Saturdays 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: \$85.00 including uniform

Fun Club

6-12

Monday through Friday 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Youth Basketball Clinics

5-15

Days: Saturdays 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: \$ 5.00 per week

Special Annual Events

Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot

All ages

Shoot at plastic turkeys and win a frozen turkey!
November 2007
For exact date, time and fee information, please contact the park.

Christmas in the Park

All ages

December 2007
For exact date, time and fee information, please contact the park.



Leon H. Washington Park

8908 S. Maie Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90002
(323) 586-7205 Fax: (323) 586-7392



Washington Park is built on land that formerly housed a large lumber yard. It is named after Colonel Leon H. Washington, a leader and independent thinker who founded the newspaper, *The Eastside Shopper*, which is now known as *The Sentinel*, one of the most respected newspapers in California.

Supervisor's Club 6 - 12
Monday through Friday 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Summer Lunch 18 and under
Monday through Friday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
July 2007 - August 2007
Fee: Free of charge

Family Night All ages
Every 3rd Friday 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge



Indoor Tennis 6 - 15
Thursdays 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Teen Club 13 - 18
Saturdays 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
September 2007 through June 2008
Fee: Free of charge

Karate 5+
Mondays and Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: \$25 for uniform

Adult Aerobics 16 +
Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Walking Club All ages
Monday through Thursday 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Computers for Seniors 55+
Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Computer Lab All ages
Monday through Friday Open during park hours
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Tutoring Class 5 - 16
Monday through Thursday 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
September 2007 through June 2008
Fee: Free of charge

40 and Over Basketball 40+
Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Cooking Class 6 - 14
Fridays 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Ted Watkins Memorial Park

1335 E. 103rd Street
Los Angeles, Ca. 90002
(323) 357-3032

Ted Watkins Park, located at the most southern end of Florence-Firestone, is a monumental piece of history. This 27-acre facility was formerly named after Will Rogers and rededicated in 1995 as Watkins Park, named after the founder of the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC).

After School Program

5 - 12

Monday through Friday 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: \$20 per month

Supervisor's Club

5 - 12

Monday through Friday 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Adult Aerobic Class

18 +

Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: \$20 per month



Tiny Tots Program

3 - 5

Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: \$20 per month

Snack Program

18 and under

Monday through Friday 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Teen Club

13-17

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Youth Soccer Camp

5 - 7

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: \$20 per month



"Club Alegra" Senior Citizens Club

55+

Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Drill Team Practice

All ages

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Indoor Tennis

All ages

Wednesdays 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Hip-Hop Dance Class

All ages

Mondays and Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Game Time Clubhouse

5 - 17

Saturdays and Sundays 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: Free of charge

Tennis Lessons

7 - 17

Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: \$7 per person

Sports Club (Kids in Sports)

5 - 17

Tuesdays through Friday 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Year-Round
Fee: \$25 per month

Special Events Calendar

Please contact the park at **(323) 357-3032** for details.



Environmental Education Fair

All ages

Saturday, July 14, 2007

Fee: Free of charge

For time information, please call the park at **(323) 357-3032**.

Pre-Thanksgiving Talent Showcase

All ages

November 2007

Fee: Free of charge

For exact date and time information, please call the park at **(323) 357-3032**.

Christmas Program and Toy Give-Away

All ages

December 2007

Fee: Free of charge

For exact date and time information, please call the park at **(323) 357-3032**.

Ted Watkins Swimming Pool

1335 E. 103rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90002

(323) 357-3034



The Ted Watkins Swimming Pool will be undergoing construction upgrades. **Please check with the Park office for updates on program availability.**

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area

4100 South La Cienega Boulevard

Los Angeles, CA 90056

Telephone: **(323) 298-3660** Fax: **(323) 291-8958**

Hours: Daily

6:00 a.m. to Sunset

A \$4.00 vehicle entry fee applies on weekends and holidays.



Kenneth Hahn State Regional Park is comprised of 315 acres of hilly terrain offering excellent opportunities for hiking or leisurely nature walks. Fishing can be enjoyed at the man-made lake, picnics can be held at any one of a number of

picnic sites, and children can play at one of the park play areas. The community center is open daily. The park is beautifully landscaped with a continual reminder that the area once served as housing and training grounds for the 1932 Olympics; 140 trees planted together on the hills, each representing a nation that took part in the 1984 Olympics.

FACILITIES

Baseball Diamonds, Children Play Area, Japanese Garden, a Fishing Lake, Picnic Tables with BBQ Grills, Group Picnic Areas, Hiking Trails, scenic views of Los Angeles County.



RECREATION PROGRAMS

Walking Club

All Ages

Meetings on third week of the month, Community Room

Fee: Free of charge

For date, time, and additional information, please call the park office at **(323) 298-3660**.

Special Events

"Juneteenth" Celebration

All Ages

Celebrating the emancipation date of freedom for African-Americans.

June 2007

Fee: Free of charge

For date, time, and additional information, please call the park office at **(323) 298-3660**.

Senior Health Fair

All Ages

August 2007

Fee: Free of charge

For date, time, and additional information, please call the park office at **(323) 298-3660**.



DEPARTMENT OF BEACHES AND HARBORS

13837 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292 • (310) 305-9545

2007 OUTDOOR AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The Department of Beaches and Harbors offers a variety of popular outdoor events and annual events which take place at Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. All events, except for the Harbor and Surf Kayaking programs, are free. For further details on any of the programs or events, please call **(310) 305-9545**.



Bird Watching

Thursdays, January through June

Harbor Kayaking

Saturdays, March through October

Surf Kayaking

Saturdays, March through October

Memorial Day Concert

(with the 562nd Air National Guard Big Band)
Saturday, May 26, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

Summer Concerts

(Classical and Pop)
Thursday and Saturday evenings,
7:00 p.m., July through September

4th of July Fireworks Extravaganza

Wednesday, July 4, 2007 at 9:00 p.m.

Discover Marina del Rey Day

Sunday, October 7,
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Marina del Rey Holiday Boat Parade

Saturday, December 8,
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Fireworks

Monday, December 31, 2007,
11:59 p.m.

Visit the Los Angeles County Museum of Art!



5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036 / (323) 857-6000 / www.lacma.org

For those interested in a memorable day trip, come and explore more than 100,000 works of art at LACMA, the largest encyclopedic museum in the West.

Hours

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Fridays 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturdays, Sundays 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

LACMA is open every day except Wednesdays, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Admission

Members	FREE	Students 18+ (with ID)	\$5.00
Adult	\$9.00	Children (17 and under)	FREE
Seniors (62+)	\$5.00		

After 5:00 p.m. and the second Tuesday of each month, general admission to the galleries is **FREE**.

LACMA presents

Sundays Live

Free Sunday Evening Concerts at the LACMA

Sundays Live presents weekly classical chamber music concerts and recitals by premier professional artists. These one-hour concerts are presented **free** to the public at 6:00 p.m. on Sundays in the Leo S. Bing Theater at LACMA. No tickets or reservations are required and all are welcome! For more information, visit www.sundayslive.org.



LACMA Program Offers Free Admission to Youth 17 and Under!



LACMA offers free admission to anyone 17 and under as well as one accompanying adult. To join, visit the LACMA box office or print the enrollment form and mail it in. For more information call (323) 857-6512 or visit www.lacma.org.

- Family Sundays
- Art camps, classes, and workshops
- Free audio tour
- An annual evening exhibition opening just for teens
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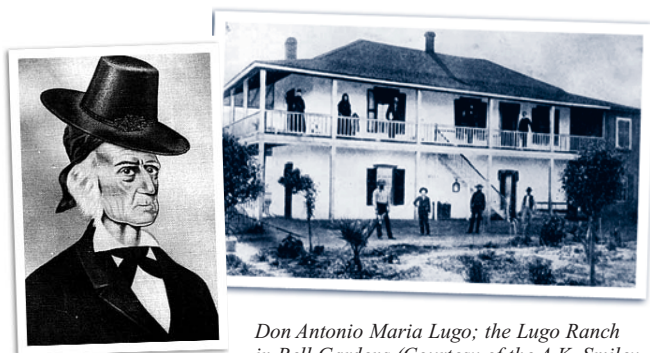


Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park

Communities Rich in History

The first inhabitants for the Los Angeles area were Native Americans. Tongva villages occupied Los Angeles County, portions of Orange and San Bernardino Counties. The Tongva was one of the largest and most powerful tribe of Southern California. They are often referred to as "Gabrielino" because they were taken by the Spanish to the San Gabriel Mission in the late 18th century.

Californios – The Lugo Era



Don Antonio Maria Lugo; the Lugo Ranch in Bell Gardens. (Courtesy of the A.K. Smiley Library)

The history of the Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park communities can be traced back to the late 1700's when soldiers were sent by the Viceroy of Mexico to explore present day California, referred to as "Alta California". One of these soldiers was Don Francisco Salvador Lugo who was presented a land grant of the area. In 1810, the King of Spain officially awarded 29,500 acres of land to Don Francisco's son, Don Antonio Maria Lugo. Don Antonio was born in California when it was still part of Spain, and then became a Mexican citizen when after Mexico gained California's independence. He served as a judge, and from 1816-1819, as mayor of Los Angeles. In 1775, the land that now encompasses Florence-Firestone, Walnut Park, neighboring southeast cities all the way to the San Gabriel River, became known as Rancho San Antonio, named after Don Antonio Lugo's birthplace, El Mission San Antonio de Padua, in Northern California. Citizens were referred to as Californios.

Another rancho in the area encompassed the southern portion of Florence-Firestone. Cornelio Avila, a Spanish

soldier who came to California in 1769 to protect the rights of the Spanish crown, obtained Rancho Tajauta for his service. His son, Anastacio Avila became landowner of the 3,599-acre Rancho La Tajuata on July 5, 1843 with boundaries of Firestone Boulevard to the north, Alameda Street to the east, Rosecrans Avenue to the south, and Central Avenue to the west. Farming of the area ended in 1902, when the Pacific Electric Railway was built.

Walnut Park



1927: Manchester Avenue at Alameda Street. (Photo courtesy of the USC Digital Archive)

Two hundred years ago, the area that would become the community of Walnut Park was a vast prairie land. According to Wally Shidler, Walnut Park historian, cattle grazed on the present day business and residential lots, and were considered some of the finest in the west.

Between 1865 and 1900, the land within Walnut Park changed hands many times. In the late nineteenth century, dairy farms were common along the countryside, with vegetable farms and orchards. Michael Cudahy, a meatpacker from Chicago, purchased 2,777 acres in 1893 for \$105 per acre, but died before he could introduce the pedigreed cattle and thoroughbred horses he intended to breed there. Following his death, the Cudahy Ranch Company was born. Before the end of the 1870s, much of the original land grant had been replaced by 40-acre tracts. By 1880, cattle had been replaced by agriculture as the most important local industry.

By 1906, there were 10,000 walnut trees that included Placentia Perfection and Santa Barbara soft-shelled varieties giving Walnut Park its identity. The Los Angeles Railways Yellow Car line was extended into Walnut Park in 1913. By 1917, the Cudahy Ranch Company had



1910: Walnut Grove in Walnut Park. Photo courtesy of the USC Digital Archive)

evolved into the Southern Extension Company and was advertising plots of lands for sale in new communities like South Gate Gardens and Walnut Park. The real estate firm of Victor Kleinberger and F.H. Edwards were selling newly subdivided lots for development at the cost of \$650, with a \$65 cash down payment, \$10 monthly payments, no interest for two years and no city taxes.

During the early 1920s, advertised trips to Walnut Park were offered by Victor Girard's Cudahy-Walnut Land Company as "Every advantage of city life with the joy of the country at hand" and walnut or apple trees on every lot. Water came from artesian wells. Promotions included the fact that it took 35 minutes to travel to Walnut Park from 7th and Broadway, and a 5-cent streetcar fare. During the years between 1910 and 1940, most of the agricultural land in Walnut Park and the surrounding area were replaced by homes and factories. The first school in the area, now known as State Street School, was established with 52 pupils, and opened on September 8, 1919. At that time, it was called Southgate Gardens School located on Madison near Independence. It was later moved to a site at State and Santa Ana Streets, where it has been located ever since. According to "Ripley's Believe It or Not," the school holds a unique position because of its location between three jurisdictions. It is located at the junction of Huntington Park, Walnut Park and South Gate.



Bakers Market (past) & La Perla Market (present) located at 7681 Santa Fe Ave.

architectural character, were mostly all single story dwellings and built for \$3,500. Two business districts existed within Walnut Park, one at the intersection of Long Beach Boulevard and Florence Avenue, and the other at Seville Avenue and Cudahy Street. The Fox Lyric Theatre was located near the intersection of Pacific

Boulevard and Florence Avenue at 7208 Long Beach Boulevard. The building is still standing and part of a busy commercial area. Built in 1921, the theater seated 1,100 patrons, and the building included 11 stores and 20 offices. Several businesses were considered local landmarks, including the Chili Bowl located on Florence Avenue, a fast food chain founded in the 1930s by Arthur Whizin, and the California White Log Cabin Restaurant.

Florence-Firestone



Sketches of Florence residences in the 1880's.

Historical references to the Florence-Firestone area include the names of Firestone Park, Miramonte, Seal Gardens, Florence, Nadeau Station, Wingfoot, and Graham (residents referred to themselves as "Grahamites"). A housing developer in the early 1900s advertised a new housing development in the Los Angeles Times located on the north side as "Florencita Park." Although there has been past references that the Florence area was named after the daughter of a Spanish settler, this has not been confirmed.

According to 1968 archives from the Florence United Methodist Church, the community of Florence was formally established in 1870 with a railroad station



1933: Walnut Park, Seville Avenue at Cudahy Street (Photo courtesy of Wally Schidler)

By 1925, the population in Walnut Park was 6,000 and had 1,900 residences. The homes that were built had

located on Florence Avenue at Alameda Street that also served as a post office. The Florence Post Office was established in 1877. The population at that time was 600 growing to 750 in 1890. Local farms averaged in size from 40 to 50 acres with some holdings up to 1,000 acres or more. Locals had access to water through many artesian wells which irrigated crops such as barley, small grain, corn, sweet potatoes and some vineyards. On the Clelland and Thatcher ranches, groves of eucalyptus trees were planted on 50 acres of land. Once the trees matured, they were cut down for firewood that was hauled to downtown Los Angeles for sale. The first artesian well was dug by a landowner by the name of T.E. Clelland, whose water provided local irrigation to over 200 of the surrounding acres.

Remi Nadeau – History Maker



Remi Nadeau

One of the most influential landowners of the area, as well as Southern California, was Remi Nadeau. Nadeau, after which Nadeau Avenue was named, was a French Canadian who immigrated to the Florence area in the 1860s.

The first reference to the community of Florence is written as early as the 1860s when the powerful and wealthy entrepreneur, Remi Nadeau purchased large parcels of land and built his home along Florence Avenue. Here he began the Nadeau vineyard, and on the corner of Florence Avenue and Alameda Street, he owned a blacksmith shop which also served as the local post office. Nadeau kept a reserve of mules that was part of a stage line that traveled to and from the Cerro Gordo Mine transporting silver. He also raised grain on his ranch to keep his stock supplied with feed, planted eucalyptus groves for firewood and raised sugar beets. Nadeau built a major hotel on the corner of 1st Street and Spring Street named the Nadeau Hotel. It was the first four-story building and had the first elevator in the downtown area.

There is a reference to Martha Nadeau, Remi Nadeau's wife, and a sketch of the Nadeau home in Florence in the *History of Los Angeles County, California, 1880* which states:

"...Mrs. Nadeau was married in 1844 to R. Nadeau, Esq., of Los Angeles. Seven children were born to them, of whom four are now living: three married, and one (a son) still unmarried and living with her at her present residence. Her home property consists of one hundred and sixty acres, beautifully laid out and improved being largely planted with eucalyptus trees. She has here a good orchard of apples, pears, and peaches and also a small vineyard. There are some fine Jersey and Durham cattle on the place." (See drawing of the Nadeau home on the inside cover)

Nadeau's family members attended local schools, owned local businesses and remained in the Florence area for generations. Remi Allen Nadeau, Nadeau's great-great grandson, is a prolific author of local and American history.

A Changing Community

Demographic changes have occurred, as with many local communities within South Los Angeles, since census records were kept. The history of this community included residents of numerous ethnic backgrounds, from transplanted residents from the east coast of the United States, European immigrants, African-Americans, Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, Italians, and Japanese. Some of the first known settlers were two African-American landowners (1880s) who between them owned 320 acres of the area referred to as Graham, and sold their property to Remi Nadeau. From the 19th century through 1948, the communities located north of Slauson Avenue were considered South Central Los Angeles. It was bounded by Main Street on the west, Washington Boulevard on the north, Slauson Avenue (along the Santa



1943: Florence Avenue school children at recess. (Photo courtesy of the Los Angeles School District Archives)

Fe Railway) to the south, and Alameda Street (along the Southern Pacific Railway) to the east. Generally, along the Central Avenue corridor, south to Watts, served as areas where African-Americans could purchase property prior to 1948. Middle class African-Americans poured into the area after the Great Depression and World War II. Between 1948 and 1960, the Supreme Court banned the race restrictions on home purchases, and during the 1950s construction of the Santa Monica and the Harbor Freeways was underway and sometimes referred to as a segregation border. A plan proposed that the Marina Freeway be built along Slauson Avenue to the Orange County line, but was never pursued, except for the small portion in West Los Angeles. After the loss of major industry and manufacturers, the opportunity for employment for blue collar workers declined.

The first store was established in 1883. Until then, all trading and shopping was conducted in Los Angeles, and a trip to the city was always looked forward to by locals. The community of Graham had their own Chamber of Commerce, and Business Men's Club. Graham National Bank was a substantial institution for its time. Through the years, several clubs and churches played an important part of Florence society such as the South East Rotary Club and the South East Women's Club. The Southeast Wave, the Florence Messenger, (whose office was located at 1425. E. Florence Avenue), and the Graham-Firestone Newspaper were weekly publications.

Recollections of the Graham-Florence Area-by Mary Bessent, Whittier



Mary Bessent as a child at her Florence home

"Having spent my early childhood in the Graham/ Florence area, I am happy to recall the area as safe and friendly. I entered this life in 1925, delivered by Dr. Sechrist, at my parent's home on 82nd Place and Maie Avenue, adjacent to the Pacific Electric Train tracks. With the Pacific Electric Railroad system it was easy to travel to The Pike in Long Beach, a great amusement park, or to Redondo Beach.

Shopping in Downtown Los Angeles was exciting. There was Bullock's, J.W. Robinson, the May Company, and F.W. Woolworth. It was at Woolworth's in 1931, that I

heard the recording of the hit song at the time, "I Found a Million Dollar Baby in a Five and Ten Cent Store." For local grocery shopping there was Youngblood's, an excellent store on Compton Avenue. Further south on Compton Avenue at Firestone was the Kinema, our local movie theatre. There was also the beautiful Fox Theatre on Florence Avenue and we had the Graham Library.

I attended Russell Elementary School at 1263 Firestone Boulevard. After the Long Beach Earthquake occurred at 5:55 p.m. on March 10th, 1933, classes were held in mobile units until the school was deemed safe to re-enter. The First Graham Immanuel Congregational Church was built in 1906 at 1785 East 85th Street. As the population in the area grew, a bigger church was needed. A groundbreaking ceremony for the new building was held on March 10th, 1929. My father became the choir director, as well as holding a number of positions in the church. Nadeau Street was named for the Nadeau Family whose ranch house was just below Nadeau. The area was blessed with a lovely breeze every afternoon at exactly two o'clock."

Horseracing at Ascot Race Park

Ascot Street, located north of Slauson Avenue between Hooper and Compton Avenues, is the only reminder of what once was the Ascot Race Park. According to the Electric Railway Historical Association, the Ascot Race Park was located at the present site of the United States Post Office, which was previously the Goodyear Rubber Plant near Slauson and Central Avenues. Ascot Park was built in 1903 by Henry Huntington and ran for three seasons offering top quality horse racing. A railway was built specifically to serve the racetrack. According to the Los Angeles Times, dated February 3, 1905, the Los Angeles Ministerial Union was concerned about the effect that the race track had on young men, and called a community meeting to protest bookmaking. In 1907, the Los Angeles City Council incorporated a long stretch of the land, including the race park, into its city limits. It then fell victim to a city ordinance making gambling illegal, and was forced to close. It was closed in August 1908 and horse racing in the Los Angeles area was carried on to Lucky Baldwin's new Arcadia Race Track, now known as the Santa Anita Racetrack.

Train Whistles



Pacific Electric Red Car Graham Avenue Overpass at Firestone Boulevard.

Throughout history, local residents have heard the sounds of train whistles, as numerous railway lines intersect the communities of Walnut Park and Florence-Firestone. The Los Angeles and Wilmington Railway (to San Pedro) was built by Phinneas Banning. Eventually, this railroad would become the Southern Pacific Railways and it had a line that ran along Alameda Avenue. During the late 1800s, there was a “Florence Station” which was an un-staffed train station on the corner of Florence Avenue and Alameda Street, where passengers were served by the conductor, who would make change and take fares.

The Pacific Electric Railway (P.E. Railway) was instrumental in the founding of the community of Graham. Prior to the railway, the land belonged to two African-American landowners, each holding 220 acres of land. Remi Nadeau purchased their land and turned it into pasture and his home. The P.E. Railway purchased the right-of-ways and laid two tracks along the present day Metro line during 1894. Graham Station was a small stationhouse. It was named Graham after the name of a man of “good reputation” who worked for the P.E. Railway.

During the late 1800s, a common mode of transportation through Los Angeles was by the P.E. Railways. In 1901, Henry Huntington took over the company and began purchasing land to expand railways serving Southern California. The “Red Cars,” electric cars powered by overhead electrical cables, ultimately was the most popular mode of transportation, serving local residents with low costs trips to most Southern California destinations. Passengers could ride the rails that ran along

Graham Avenue to Long Beach. Other lines connected locally through Walnut Park, from Los Angeles, to Orange, Ventura and San Bernardino Counties. Red Car ridership reached its peak during the 1920s and then again during the 1940s during World War II, but due to the popularity of the automobile, it began to decline, and service was eventually discontinued. The last Red Car was retired from service in 1961. Many of the present day bus lines and transit run along previous Red Car lines.



Vintage Graham Station postcard.

The Mystery of “Wingfoot”

Present day maps still list a spot on the northern portion of Florence-Firestone as “Wingfoot.” What is Wingfoot? It is the name of the area where a freight station and rail lines were built specifically for the former Goodyear Rubber and Tire Factory. Wingfoot is the logo for the Goodyear Tire Company. The Wingfoot Freight Station still stands on the northeast corner of Slauson and Central Avenues. The next time you walk or drive through the area, you will see its present day use as a furniture store and the old Wingfoot railway sign that still stands along the rail lines.

Lights, Cameras, Action!

During the boom of the movie industry, several movie houses served the residents of Florence-Firestone. The largest and most elaborate local theatre was the glamorous Fox Florence Theatre and Playhouse. The theatre was located at 1536 E. Florence Avenue near the corner of Compton Boulevard and the south side of Florence Avenue. Built at a cost of \$350,000, the theatre was opened with much fanfare that included a parade starting at Florence Elementary School to the theatre site.

A dedication ceremony was hosted in April 1932 that included film star Leo Carrillo, whose film "The Broken Wing" was premiering that evening. The architecture was Spanish Colonial Revival and was built to accommodate 2,000 seats, with a balcony, and an entrance through a courtyard that included a carved stone fountain with fish, and several boutiques. To the rear of the theatre was parking for over 500 cars. Around 1965, the theatre was closed, and demolished by 1968. The theatre resembles a similar Fox Theatre "The Arlington" in Santa Barbara, which still operates today.



1932: Fox Florence Theatre and courtyard located at 1536 E. Florence Ave. (Photos courtesy of the Los Angeles Public Library)

Other "Movie Picture Houses" were located on the corner of Graham Avenue and Manchester Avenue (now Firestone Boulevard), "The Graham" the other "The Kinema," located on Compton Avenue just off Manchester Avenue. Located at 6525 Compton Avenue was "The Gentry" Theatre. All were described as "attractive, well managed, with moderate admission prices."

Memories of a Lifetime Resident – Joe Titus

Joe Titus is a lifelong resident of Florence-Firestone where he still resides. He was born at Queen of Angels Hospital and moved to East 59th Street in 1924 with his parents and two sisters. Mr. Titus attended Saint Aloysius Elementary School, Edison Junior High, and Fremont High School where he graduated in 1945. The schools at that time believed in corporal punishment. Mr. Titus' father was a contractor who built apartments in the area, and his mother was a housewife managing family owned apartments. Joe Titus purchased his home in 1962 for \$100 and then purchased his home on East 59th Place for \$1,000. During this time rent was \$3 - \$5 a week.

Mr. Titus grew up referring to his community as the "country" which was made up of farms and open space. In the 1930s there was a horse drawn junk wagon that traveled throughout the area. There were many theatres in the area, one where Rite-Aid is now located which was called the Fox-Florence Theatre, and a another called the Gentry Theatre on Compton Avenue and 65th Street.

Titus recalls that the Los Angeles River was a natural river during his youth, the community depended on a efficient rail system known as the "Red Car," and the Wingfoot Station freight building was located on Slauson between Hooper and Central Avenue. Residents shopped at a Safeway Market on Compton Avenue and 61st Street and the area surrounding Avalon Street and Central Avenue was considered industrial. There were many "mom and pop" stores located in the area and a Japanese owned vegetable garden south of Nadeau Avenue between Compton Avenue and Hooper Street. The communities of Florence and Huntington Park offered the only major shopping in the area.



1953: 79th Street School students (now McKinley Elementary School) on a field trip. (Photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Unified School District Archives)

The Industrial Revolution Arrives

Some of the largest industries in the area were steel manufacturers, automobile assembly plants, and rubber manufacturing factories. All of the major automobile manufacturers opened plants in the Los Angeles area that included the surrounding communities of Vernon, South Gate, and Maywood. This created a demand for automobile parts, including tires. The four major rubber

manufacturers were located in Akron, Ohio. The Los Angeles area still had large open space, and the proximity to rail lines and ocean freight became a magnet for both Goodyear and Firestone Rubber Manufacturers. The natural rubber used in making tires was shipped in through the Port of Los Angeles from Southeast Asia, and the cotton used for the cord was grown in the Imperial Valley.



*Goodyear Plant Clock Tower
(Photo courtesy of the USC
Digital Archive)*



*Firestone Plant Main Entrance
(Photo courtesy of the USC
Digital Archive)*

Carl Karcher, of the Carl's Junior hamburger chain, got his start on the corner of Central Avenue and Slauson Boulevard. With his hot dog stand located near the Goodyear Plant, he had a steady stream of customers purchasing hot dogs for 10 cents, and soda for a nickel.

Goodyear Rubber and Tire Company opened a branch plant in 1920 within the

Florence area on 40 acres of land. The plant was bordered by Central and Slauson. The company owned and operated the famous Goodyear Blimp that was stored in a large hangar on the property. Firestone Rubber Manufacturing bought land for \$7,000 an acre and opened a plant in 1927 near the intersection of Firestone Boulevard and Alameda where the building still stands in present day South Gate.

According to a 1940 questionnaire filled out by the local librarians, they describe other dominating industries as rubber factories, derrick and equipment companies, venetian blind stores, a winery, paint, tool, glass and refrigerator manufacturing companies, and the Graham Knitting Mills.

Fond Memories by Betty L. Cooper, Torrance (West, Los Angeles Times, 10/06)

"I was filled with fond memories of my 1930s childhood. My dad worked as a tire builder for Goodyear for many years. When I was a little girl, my mother and I waited in our car every afternoon for him to finish his shift and come out of the factory to meet us. We parked on Florence Avenue so we could watch the Goodyear Blimp float down to the ground; men caught the ropes dangling from its front end and turned it around, then backed it into its huge hangar and secured it. I never tired of watching what I considered the "main event" of each afternoon at the corner of Florence and Central Avenues."

The Day the Earth Shook – Long Beach Earthquake, 1933



Graham School



*Aftermath of the Long Beach earthquake
along Walnut Park commercial area*

Although Southern California has been affected by numerous earthquakes, none had the impact to Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park as the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake. This quake, which damaged many local schools and buildings, led to the establishment of state standards for safer building and school design and codes. The magnitude 6.3 earthquake resulted in 115 deaths and 600 injuries.

Most of the local schools were affected by the temblor and had to be rebuilt. According to written documents of Graham Library personnel, the damage of the earthquake "swept away" most of the local "outstanding" landmarks in the business district. Graham School, located on Firestone Boulevard, originally built in 1907 with an

enrollment of 1,000 students, suffered damage to the main building which had to be torn down. Russell Elementary School erected tents for classrooms. The Los Angeles Unified School District initiated a school bond to reconstruct and repair the numerous local school buildings damaged by the quake.

Civil Unrest

Recent Los Angeles history includes eras of unrest. During the summer of 1965, longstanding community tensions over treatment by police and inadequate public services resulted in what is commonly known as the Watts Riots. During 1991, Los Angeles was again the focus of civil disturbances after the court verdict of a high profile trial. Several businesses within Florence-Firestone suffered damage. These losses were concentrated heavily in commercial areas along the corridors of the South East, South Los Angeles, and Koreatown sections of Los Angeles. In the case of Florence Avenue, pharmacy owner, Irv Sitkoff, his decision to rebuild after losing his business displayed a commitment to the spirit of Florence-Firestone.

A Pharmacist Rebuilds – Irv Sitkoff

Irwin Sitkoff, who has practiced pharmacy in Florence-Firestone for 44 years, never gave up on his patrons. Sitkoff's Pharmacy burned to the ground during the 1992 civil disturbance, but he decided not to give up on his community. He is a well known business owner where he has been consistently involved with many community and educational activities. His establishment provides hometown service and employment for neighborhood youth, some continuing in the pharmaceutical field. Although devastated by the damage to the pharmacy, he chose to remain, attached to his patrons and community. In 1993, the pharmacy reopened, and at 75 years old Sitkoff has since sold the business to a Florence-Firestone native, and continues to work part-time at the pharmacy.

Community Street Names – Do you know how your street got its name?

Alameda Street: Spanish term meaning tree-lined avenue, or a road lined with Alamo (Poplar) trees.

Bell Avenue: In 1870 and 1890, large portions of the former Lugo Rancho were divided into smaller land holdings. James George Bell and his family, pioneer residents for whom the city is named, arrived, acquired about 360 acres of land and helped in its development as a small farming and cattle raising community.

Compton Boulevard: Griffith Dickinson Compton (1820-1905) a minister and founder of the local college.

Gage Avenue: Henry Tiffit Gage (1852-1924) In 1880, attorney Henry T. Gage, married one of Don Lugo's great granddaughters, Francis "Fanny" Rains. The original Lugo adobe ranch was gifted to Gage as a wedding dowry and it became known as the Gage Mansion. In 1898, Gage was elected to become Governor of California. Gage lived in the adobe ranch house, which still stands in Bell Gardens, until his death in 1924.

Graham Avenue: Named after a local railroad employee of good reputation.

Firestone Boulevard: Harvey Firestone (1868 -1938) of Firestone Rubber Tire Manufacturing.

Hooper Avenue: Charles B. Hooper, a local real estate developer.

Maie Avenue: Named after a Nadeau family descendent.

Manchester Avenue: Manchester was an early landowner whose property extended west of Graham.

Nadeau Street: Remi Nadeau, a French Canadian entrepreneur who owned an extensive portion of the Florence-Firestone community.

Santa Fe Avenue: Named after the Santa Fe Railroad Company.

Slauson Boulevard: Jonathan S. Slauson (1829-1905) was a prominent citizen, President of the Los Angeles County Bank, and a land developer. He is credited for founding the town of Azusa.

Whitsett Avenue: William Paul Whitsett (1875 -1965) was responsible for development in Los Angeles County and served as a President of the Metropolitan Water Company.

Conclusion

This is a brief overview of a long and rich community history. So much more history exists in memories, scrapbooks, textbooks, and newspapers. If you have history you would like to share, we encourage you to forward your knowledge or experiences to the CAO's Office of Unincorporated Services. Your information will be donated to your local public libraries for future generations to enjoy.

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Mary Bessent

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Los Angeles Public Library (Carolyn Cole)

Irv Sitkoff

Captain Joe Woyjeck and Captain Paul Schneider,
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Wally Shidler

A.K.Smiley Collection – Redlands

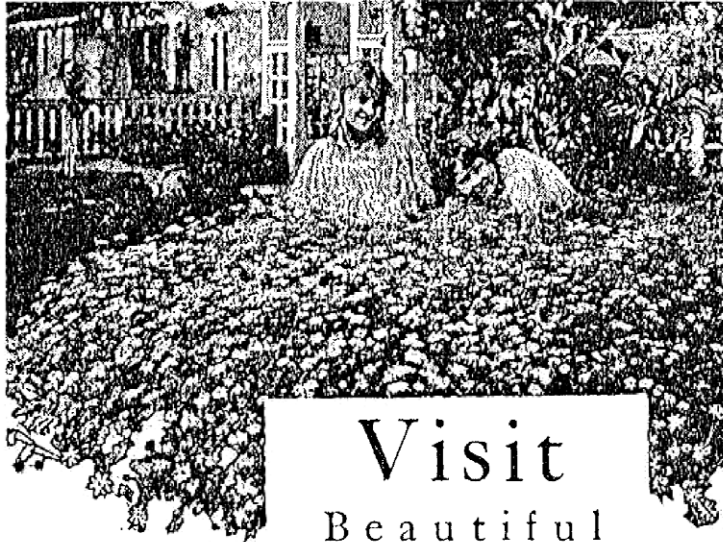
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Los Angeles Unified School District Archives
(Leslie Fischer)

Jack Miller, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department,
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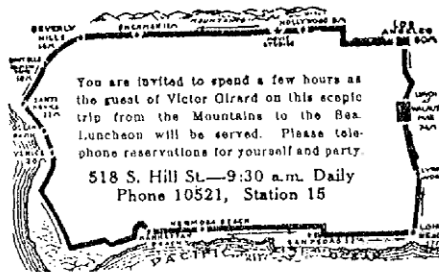
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From the Los Angeles Times, April, 1922

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Our **philosophy** of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our shared values:

- **A can-do attitude** – we approach each challenge believing that, together, a solution can be achieved.
- **Accountability** – we accept responsibility for the decisions we make and the actions we take.
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Our **position** as the premier organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

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- An aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation; and a pledge to always work to earn the public trust.

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To enrich lives through effective and caring service.

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- | | |
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First District Field Office

Oficina de Campo del Primer Distrito

(323) 881-4601

Second District Field Office

Oficina de Campo del Segundo Distrito

(323) 586-6523

Children Services

Servicios para Niños

Child Care Hotline/CalWorks

Línea de Información de Cuidado para Niños/CalWorks

(877) CHILD-99

The Children's Collective, Inc.

Convenio Colectivo de Niños, Inc.

(323) 583-1588

Mexican-American Opportunity

Foundation Head Start/Pre-School

Fundación de Oportunidad para Mexico-Americanos

Escuela Infantil Head Start/Pre-Escolar

(323) 584-1250

Child Abuse Hotline

Línea de Información de Abuso al Niño

(800) 540-4000

Child Support Services

Servicios de Manutención de Niños

(323) 890-9800

Community and Senior Services

Servicios para la Comunidad y para Personas Mayores

Adult Protective Services

Servicios de Protección de Adultos

(213) 351-5401

Area Agency on Aging

Agencia del Área Sobre Envejecimiento

(213) 738-4004

Elder Abuse Hotline

Línea de Información de Abuso de Ancianos

(877) 477-3646

Florence-Firestone Service Center

Centro de Servicio de Florence-Firestone

(323) 586-6501

Consumer Concerns

Preocupaciones del Consumidor

Consumer Affairs

Asuntos del Consumidor

(800) 593-8222

Florence-Firestone Satellite Office

Oficina Satélite de Florence-Firestone

(323) 586-6508

Scanner Overcharge

Escáner Sobrecargado

(562) 940-8911

Complaints-Utility Meters and Scales

Quejas-Medidores de Utilidades y Balanzas

Crisis Intervention

Intervención de Crisis

2-1-1 (24 Hour Information and Referral Service)

(Línea de Información 24 Horas y Servicio de Referencia)

2-1-1

Domestic Violence Hotline

Línea de Información para Violencia Doméstica

(800) 978-3600

Environmental Health

Salud Ambiental

24 Hour Hotline

Línea de Información 24 Horas al día

(888) 700-9995

Food Vending on Street

Venta de Comida en la Calle

(626) 430-5500

Insect/Vector (rats, mice) Control

Control de Insectos/Portadores (ratas, ratones)

(626) 430-5450

Retail Food Inspections (Restaurants)

Inspecciones de Comida al por menor (Restaurants)

(323) 235-7009

Housing Complaints

Quejas de Vivienda

(213) 351-5085

Employment

Empleo

County of Los Angeles 24-Hour Job Hotline

Línea de Información de Trabajos del

Condado de Los Ángeles las 24 Horas

(800) 970-5478

Los Angeles Urban League WorkSource

Business and Career Center

(323) 600-1106

Fuente de Trabajo de la Liga Urbana de Los Angeles

Centro de Negocios y Carreras

Hub Cities Consortium WorkSource

Fuente de Trabajo de Consorcios de Ciudades tipo Hub

(323) 586-4700

Garbage /Waste Collection

Recojo de Basura / Desperdicios

BFI Disposal

Desechos BFI

(888) 742-5234

Hazardous Waste/Spills

Desperdicios Peligrosos/Derramos

(800) 303-0003

Hazardous Waste/Recycling

Desperdicios Peligrosos/Reciclaje

(888) CLEANLA

Graffiti Abatement

Diminución de Graffiti

Graffiti Removal Request

Pedido de Eliminación de Graffiti

(800) 675-4357

Caltrans – Freeway Walls and Signs

Paredes de las vías rápidas y Avisos de Caltrans

(213) 897-3656

Health Centers

Centros de Salud

Hubert Humphrey

Comprehensive Health Center

(323) 846-4312

Hubert Humphrey Centro de Salud Extenso

H. Claude Hudson

Comprehensive Health Center

(800) 383-4600

H. Claude Hudson Centro de Salud Extenso

King/Harbor Medical Center

Centro Médico King/Harbor

(310) 668-4321

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES / DIRECTORIO DE SERVICIOS

Ruth Temple Health Center <i>Centro de Salud Ruth Temple</i>	(323) 730-3507	Washington Park <i>Parque Washington</i>	(323) 586-7205	California High Patrol (CHP) <i>Patrulla de Autopistas de California</i>	
South Public Health Center <i>Centro de Salud Público del Sur</i>	(323) 563-4053	Watkins Memorial Park <i>Parque Watkins Memorial</i> Pool – <i>Piscina</i>	(323) 357-3032 (323) 357-3034	CHP Non-Emergency (24 Hours) <i>CHP Sin-Emergencia (24 Horas)</i>	(323) 906-3434
Homeless Services <i>Servicios para Personas sin Hogar</i>		Walnut Nature Park <i>Parque Walnut Nature</i>	(323) 586-7260	CHP South Los Angeles (Monday-Friday) 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. <i>CHP Sur de Los Angeles</i> (Lunes a viernes) 8 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.	(310) 516-3355
General Information <i>Información General</i>	(213) 683-3333	Firestone Activity Center <i>Centro de Actividades de Firestone</i>	(323) 586-7250	Traffic Accidents <i>Accidentes de Tráfico</i>	9-1-1
Emergency Shelter <i>Refugio de Emergencia</i>	2-1-1	Public Safety <i>Seguridad Pública</i>		Public Social Services <i>Servicios Sociales Públicos</i>	
Libraries		Emergencies <i>Emergencias</i>	9-1-1	Florence District 17 Office <i>Oficina 17 del Distrito de Florence</i>	(323) 586-7263
Bibliothecas		Fire Department – public information <i>Departamento de Bomberos – información pública</i>	(323) 881-2411	Public Works <i>Obras Públicas</i>	
Florence Library <i>Biblioteca de Florence</i>	(323) 581-8028	Fire Station 164 (Walnut Park) <i>Estación de Bomberos 164 (Walnut Park)</i>	(323) 589-1350	Abandoned Shopping Carts <i>Carretas de Compras Abandonadas</i>	(800) 252-4613
Graham Library <i>Biblioteca de Graham</i>	(323) 582-2903	Fire Station 16 (Florence-Firestone) <i>Estación de Bomberos 16 (Florence-Firestone)</i>	(323) 585-5002	Building and Safety <i>Arquitectura y Seguridad</i>	(323) 586-6541
Parks – After-school programs <i>Parques – Programas para Después de la escuela</i>		County Police Dispatch (parks) <i>Despacho de la Policía del Condado (parques)</i>	(800) 834-0064	Road Maintenance <i>Mantenimiento de Carreteras</i>	(323) 582-7848
Bethune Park <i>Parque Bethune</i>	(323) 846-1895	Sheriff's Century Station (24 Hours) <i>Estación Century del Sheriff (24 Horas)</i>	(323) 568-4800		
Roosevelt Park <i>Parque Roosevelt</i>	(323) 586-7228				

You can dial **2-1-1** to access information for emergency food and shelter, senior services, childcare, employment resources, report code enforcement problems, low-cost health care, alcohol and drug-related support, volunteer opportunities, and many other services. As a resident of the unincorporated area of Florence-Firestone or Walnut Park, you can just simply dial 2-1-1 to access an array of municipal services, at no cost to you. The 2-1-1 information service is provided in many languages.



¿Sabía usted que puede llamar al **2-1-1** para recibir información en cuanto a comida de emergencia y refugio, servicios para ancianos, cuidado para niños, recursos de empleo, cuidado de salud a bajo costo, apoyo relacionado con problemas con alcohol y drogas, oportunidades como voluntario, y muchas otros recursos de servicios humanos y de salud?

Como residente del área no incorporada de Whitier, usted simplemente puede marcar el 2-1-1 para obtener una variedad de servicios municipales, incluso refuerzo de código sin costo alguno. Se brinda el servicio de información del 2-1-1 en muchos idiomas. 2-1-1 funciona las 24 horas del día, 7 días de la semana. La información que usted brinde a los consejeros de recursos es confidencial. **AVISO: En caso de una emergencia, usted aún tiene que marcar el 9-1-1.** Si usted no puede obtener acceso al 2-1-1 directamente, favor de llamar al **(800) 339-6993** o visite el sitio web del Condado de LA en **www.211LA.org**.

2-1-1 is operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The information you provide to the resource advisors is confidential. **NOTE: In case of an emergency, you still must dial 9-1-1.** If you are unable to access 2-1-1 directly, please call **(800) 339-6993** or visit the 211 LA County website at **www.211LA.org**.

Sewer Maintenance <i>Mantenimiento de Desagües</i>	(800) 675-4357	Utilities <i>Utilidades</i>	Edison Middle School <i>Escuela Intermediaria Edison</i>	(323) 587-5108
Sidewalks, Curbs, and Gutters <i>Veredas, Esquinas, y Zanjas</i>	(323) 582-7848	Southern California Edison Emergency Line <i>Edison del Sur de California Linea de Emergencia</i>	Graham Elementary School <i>Escuela Elemental Graham</i>	(323) 583-1263
Street Light Maintenance (Edison) <i>Mantenimiento de Luces para Calles (Edison)</i>	(800) 611-1911	Southern California Gas Company <i>Compañía de Gas del Sur de California</i>	McKinley Elementary School <i>Escuela Elemental McKinley</i>	(323) 582-7481
Street Light Requests <i>Pedidos de Luces para Calles</i>	(626) 300-4726	Residential Customers <i>Clientes Residenciales</i>	Miramonte Elementary School <i>Escuela Elemental Miramonte</i>	(323) 583-1257
Tree Maintenance <i>Mantenimiento de Árboles</i>	(562) 869-1176	Commercial Customers <i>Clientes Comerciales</i>	Parmelee Elementary School <i>Escuela Elemental Parmelee</i>	(323) 587-4235
Traffic Signal Maintenance – 24 hr. hotline <i>Línea de Información de Mantenimiento de Señales de Tráfico – 24 hrs.</i>	(800) 675-4357	Self-Service Option <i>Opción de Auto-Servicio</i>	Russell Elementary School <i>Escuela Elemental Russell</i>	(323) 582-7247
Traffic Safety (investigations) <i>Seguridad de Tráfico (investigaciones)</i>	(626) 300-4708	Time Warner Cable <i>Cable Time Warner</i>	Los Angeles Unified School District 6 <i>Distrito Escolar Unificado de Los Angeles 6</i>	(323) 278-3900
Railroad Right-of-ways <i>Derecho de Paso de Líneas de Carril de Tren</i>	(626) 458-3935	Golden State Water (Florence-Firestone residents) <i>Agua Golden State (Residentes de Florence-Firestone)</i>	Florence Avenue Elementary School <i>Escuela Elemental Florence Avenue</i>	(323) 582-0758
Emergencies for all Public Works <i>Emergencias para todas las Obras Públicas</i>	(800) 675-4357	Walnut Park Mutual Water Company <i>Compañía de Agua Walnut Park Mutual</i>	Liberty Elementary School <i>Escuela Elemental Liberty</i>	(323) 583-4196
Regional Planning <i>Planeamiento Regional</i>		Central Basin Municipal Water District <i>Distrito Municipal de Agua Central de Cuenca</i>	Lillian Elementary School <i>Escuela Elemental Lillian</i>	(323) 582-0705
General Information <i>Información General</i>	(213) 974-6411		South Gate High School <i>Preparatoria South Gate</i>	(323) 568-5600
Code Enforcement <i>Esforzamiento del Código</i>	(213) 974-6453	OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS OTROS NÚMEROS ÚTILES	Walnut Park Elementary School <i>Escuela Elemental Walnut Park</i>	(323) 588-3145
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk <i>Registrador-Secretario del Registro Civil/Clérigo del Condado</i>		Chambers of Commerce <i>Cámaras de Comercio</i>	Transportation <i>Transporte</i>	
Real Estate Recording <i>Registro de Bienes y Raíces</i>	(562) 462-2125	Florence Firestone Chamber of Commerce <i>Cámara de Comercio de Florence Firestone</i>	Commuter Action Network <i>Cadena de Acción de Viajeros</i>	(800) 266-6883
Registrar of Voters / Birth/Death Certificates <i>Registro de Votantes / Certificados de Nacimiento/Defunciones</i>	(562) 466-1310	Walnut Park Chamber of Commerce <i>Cámara de Comercio de Walnut Park</i>	Dial-A-Ride <i>Marque-El-Viaje</i>	(323) 563-5653
		Schools <i>Escuelas</i>	Access Services <i>Servicios de Acceso</i>	(800) 827-0829
		Los Angeles Unified School District 7 <i>Distrito Escolar Unificado de Los Angeles 7</i>	Metro Bus and Rail Info. <i>Información del Metro Bus y Tren</i>	(800) 266-6883
		Drew Middle School <i>Escuela Intermediaria Drew</i>		

UNINCORPORATED FLORENCE-FIRESTONE / WALNUT PARK AREA

